FRIDAY
January 20, 2023

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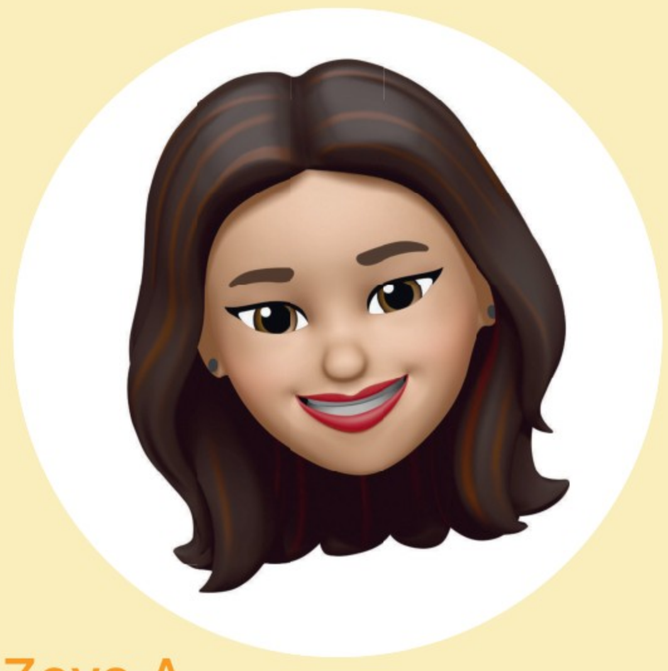
iPhone

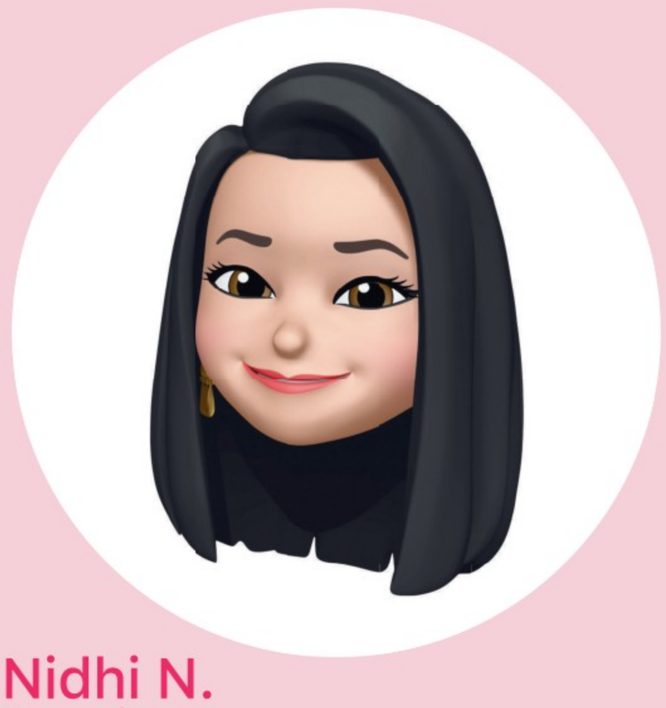
There are so many reasons to switch to iPhone.

"With iPhone, I don't worry about the focus or clarity of my pictures. I just pick it up and smile."



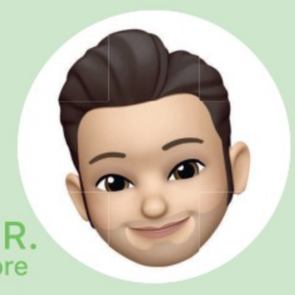
Zoya A.
Bangalore

"I trust my iPhone more than my friends with all my secrets."



Nidhi N.
Bangalore

"iPhone makes me feel like I'm in the game. The screen quality is nice and smooth."



Yash R.
Bangalore

Turn overleaf for offers to switch

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UNSAFE CITY

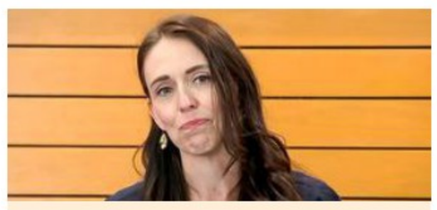
DCW chief harassed, dragged by car, 1 held

NEWS » PAGE 14

GENDER PARITY

Search on for women Colonels

NEWS » PAGE 16



SUDDEN EXIT

New Zealand PM Jacinda Arden to quit

WORLD » PAGE 17

PARLEY

What is key to controlling diabetes?

Awareness plays a crucial role, not wealth

OPINION » PAGE 13

MAKING THE GRADE

India beats Wales, plays NZ in cross-overs

SPORT » PAGE 19

SC Collegium firm on appointing gay lawyer as HC judge

Govt. had objected to the proposal citing Kirpal's relationship with Swiss national and possibility of bias because of his advocacy for LGBTQ rights

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium on Thursday stood firm by its resolve to have the government appoint openly gay lawyer Saurabh Kirpal as Delhi High Court judge, saying every individual is "entitled to maintain their own dignity and individuality based on sexual orientation".

The three-member collegium of Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Sanjay Kishan Kaul and K.M. Joseph took the rare decision to publish the full extent of the government's objections to Mr. Kirpal, based on his sexuality and his "passionate" advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights.

The collegium referred to letters from the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), forwarded by the government, frowning upon Mr. Kirpal's partner being a Swiss national, that they have an "intimate relationship" and the lawyer is "open about his sexual orientation".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

File pending

In a rare decision, the three-member Supreme Court Collegium on Thursday revealed the full extent of the government's objections to **Saurabh Kirpal's** appointment. A look at his file:

SAURABH KIRPAL

October 13, 2017: Kirpal was unanimously recommended for judgeship by the Delhi High Court Collegium

November 11, 2021: This was approved by the SC Collegium

November 25, 2022: The Department of Justice refers the file back to the SC Collegium for reconsideration

Aware of people's suffering in J&K, I came to share your pain, says Rahul

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who reached Jammu and Kashmir on Thursday evening for the last leg of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, said he had come to listen and share the pain of the people of J&K.

"It feels like returning home. My family at one point of time had moved out from J&K to Uttar Pradesh. Once you return to your roots, you learn a lot about people, the place and the country. I am aware of people's suffering in J&K, as all of them have suffered irrespective of their religion or caste. I bow my head before them. I am here to listen and share your pain and learn from you during my nine-day stay," Mr. Gandhi said.

Show of support: Rahul Gandhi with National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah during the Bharat Jodo Yatra at Lakhanpur. PTI

Hundreds of supporters carrying torches welcomed Mr. Gandhi at Lakhanpur, which is the gateway to J&K. National Conference (NC) president and MP Farooq Abdullah received Mr. Gandhi, who is concluding his yatra in Srinagar on January 30.

Speaking at a public rally, Mr. Gandhi accused the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) of spreading hatred, pitting one religion against another, one caste against another and one linguistic group against another.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

Wrestlers threaten to step up protest

Jonathan Selvaraj
NEW DELHI

A day after top Indian wrestlers accused Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh of sexual exploitation of young athletes at the women's national camp, Olympic bronze medallist Bajrang Punia on Thursday said more victims were willing to step forward with proof.

Mr. Punia referred to Mr. Singh's defence on Wednesday when the six-time MP said he would "hang himself even if one girl came forward to accuse him".

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

NEARBY

Modi's charge against previous governments

KODEKAL (YADGIR DISTRICT)
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday accused the previous governments of indulging in vote-bank politics based on caste and religion. » Page 10

Autos to have QR code with driver details

BENGALURU
Autorickshaws in the city will soon sport a QR code behind the driver's seat which will not only provide the details of the driver and vehicle but also a platform to lodge a complaint.

» Page 2

METROPLUS » PAGE 9

Padmabhushana, Karnataka Ratna, Basavashree Awardee,
Trividha Dasohi, Maha Shivayogi, Paramapoojya

Dr. Sree Sree Sree Sivakumara Mahaswamiji's

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Commemoration Ceremony

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Dignitaries, Sree Math's Devotees - Well Wishers and the Public

All are Cordially Invited

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ಕಾಯಕವೇ ಕೈಲಾಸವೆನ್ನುವ ಮಾತು ಕೃತಿಯೊಳು ಮೂಡಿದೆ ।
ಕಾವಿಯುಡುಗೆಯನುಟ್ಟು ನಭವೇ ಕಿರಣ ಹಸ್ತವ ಚಾಚಿದೆ ।
ಎಲ್ಲ ನನ್ನವರೆನುವ ಭಾವದ ಕರುಣೆಯೇ ಕಣ್ತೆರೆದಿದೆ ॥
ಸಿದ್ಧಗಂಗೆಯ ಶ್ರೀಚರಣಕ್ಕೆ – ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಕವಿ ಡಾ. ಜಿ.ಎಸ್. ಶಿವರುದ್ರಪ್ಪ

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Nomadic families in north Karnataka to be given 'Hakku Patra'

52,000 The number of nomadic Lambani families in north Karnataka, to be given a land title deed as part of the 'Hakku Patra' (land title deed) distribution drive. Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed 'Hakku Patra' to couples during the drive's launch. This will secure the future of thousands of people. PTI

Slowdown in national highway construction: Transport Ministry

20.99 In kilometres per day, the pace of national highway (NH) construction in India, in the current financial year, according to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways data. The pace of construction that touched a record high of 37 kilometres a day in 2020-21, came down to 28.64 km a day in 2021-22. PTI

A major blow to Pakistan as World Bank delays loans

1.1 In $ billion, the amount of two loans for Pakistan delayed to be approved by the World Bank until the next fiscal year, according to *The Express Tribune*. The Bank's decision to withhold approval of the second RISE-II loan worth $450 million and the second Programme for Affordable Energy (PACE-II) loan worth $600 million will be a major blow to cash-strapped Pakistan. PTI

U.S. unemployment claims drop to lowest level since September

1.9 In lakh, the number of applications filed for U.S. unemployment benefits, in the week ending January 14. This was the lowest level since September, underscoring a strong jobs market where businesses are reluctant to let go of workers. That said, economists expect layoffs in the months ahead as the Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes hit the economy. Agencies

Space startups funding halved as investors shift to safer avenues

21.9 In $ billon, the investments in space startups in 2022, less than half of the $45.7 billion funded in 2021. Last year marked the toughest period for space startups since the economic crisis in 2008. Investments in space startups dried up as venture-capital backers sought safer avenues. Reuters

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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The political flux in Pakistan

As the economic and social conditions following the floods remain tense in Pakistan, the political landscape is not far behind. The effects of political engineering by the deep state to certain ends for the 2018 election can still be felt in the country especially in the provinces of Sindh and Balochistan

WORLD INSIGHT

D. Suba Chandran

With the dissolution of Punjab and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) provincial assemblies, Pakistan's politics has entered tumultuous territory. Former Prime Minister and founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan believes that now the PTI has a better chance to return with more seats. On the contrary, the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) (PML-N) and the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) have been trying to avoid holding elections immediately. They want more time to stabilise the economy and improve social conditions before asking the people to vote. However, Mr. Khan senses a public mood against the Establishment and wants to capitalise on it. The PDM would want to strengthen its case with the Establishment firmly, before making the next step. The economic situation and the social conditions following the floods remain tense in Pakistan. All of the above, along with the lack of political consensus leaves national politics in a flux. At the same time, in the provincial level, there is an effort to revamp regional political parties in Balochistan and Sindh.

In defiance: Supporters of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan attend a rally, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan in November 2022. AP

The race for Punjab

For the PML-N, winning Punjab is important to come back to Islamabad; preventing the Sharifs from doing so is the primary task for the PTI. Mr. Khan is now batting without the support of the Establishment; for him, the latter is no more a neutral umpire. He is pursuing confrontational politics; perhaps in the hopes of making Punjab volatile. The province is the most populous and politically powerful in the country. The party that controls Punjab will control Pakistan. The PML-N leads Parliament but has failed to capture the Punjab provincial assembly.

Of the 342 seats in the National Assembly, 272 are directly elected, and 70 are reserved for women and minorities. Put together (the open and reserved seats), Punjab alone has 173 seats, followed by Sindh (75), KP (55), and Balochistan (20). All that a party needs to have a majority in Parliament is 172 seats; in paper, if a party wins all the seats from Punjab for the National Assembly, and does not have a single seat from the other three provinces, it may still be able to form the government in Islamabad.

Therefore, the Punjab province holds the key for both PTI and PML-N. For the PTI, the 2018 election in Punjab was a miracle. The Establishment's backing was considered as a primary reason for the win. Secondly, the Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP), then a new Brelvi religious party, floated just before the elections, ate into the PML-N share in Punjab. Though the TLP could not win a single seat for the National Assembly, it spoiled the chances for PML-N in many constituencies, thereby providing space to the PTI. The PML-N has to win the hearts and minds of the people of the Punjab province first, but the current economic situation does not provide adequate space to do so. This is why Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif wants more time to hold elections.

In terms of internal party divide, both the PML-N and PTI have problems. For the PML-N, the two star campaigners – Nawaz Sharif and Maryam Nawaz are not in the country. It is also imperative to prove that all is well within the Sharif family. There are rumours about a divide between the Sharif brothers, and also between their siblings – Maryam Nawaz and Hamza Shabaz. For the PTI, a section starting from Jahangir Tareen has left the party. There is an effort to form a third front with them; the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) also seems to be winning their support, so that it can have its presence in south Punjab.

In all of this, where does the TLP stand? What will be its political calculation? In the past, it has not been shy to use violence to make its presence felt in Punjab.

The wrestle in Karachi

Sindh politics, outside Karachi, seems to be with the PPP. Zardari has succeeded in keeping the party together and therefore, rural Sindh remains with the PPP. Karachi is the primary puzzle in Sindh. The city of lights has around 20 seats for the National Assembly, and 40 plus seats for the Sindh provincial assembly. The Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) used to have the larger share of the above, but the 2018 election witnessed PTI taking over the lion's share in Karachi. The Pashtun population, and a section of the middle class is believed to have shifted to the PTI in Karachi.

The bigger political question in Karachi has been the MQM fragmentation. The deep state by 2018 had succeeded in making the party into MQM-minus Altaf Hussain (Altaf Hussain is known as the founder of the MQM). The process also resulted in the party getting fragmented into three factions – MQM-P (led by Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui), Pakistan Sarzameen Party (led by Syed Mustafa Kamal), and the third one headed by Farooq Sattar. Last week, mediated by Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori, all three factions have come together. Two reasons are being projected for this reunification. One, the realisation that they have lost their bargaining power both at the national and provincial level, and the rise of PTI as a common threat. Two, a general perception, that the deep state is behind the reunification process. It is said that the deep state wanted to remove Altaf Hussain from Karachi's politics and thereby remove MQM's hold over the city. It succeeded in both – it forced Altaf Hussain out of Karachi and got Imran Khan in. Now, the deep state, it is argued, would want the MQM to be back, to keep Mr. Khan out.

The PTI would be the loser in the above discord in Karachi. The PPP may retain its control over rest the of the Sindh; and the MQM may win the city back, if the factions remain united. If not, religious parties from Jamaat-e-Islami to the latest entrant, the TLP, may find a space. But, how would Mr. Khan, with a substantial Pashtun following in Karachi respond to the above developments?

A highly fragmented Balochistan

Balochistan politics is also in a state of flux. This is due to the fragmentation of regional political parties, and the failure of national parties to find any reasonable space in provincial politics. None of the regional parties led by the Sardars could find a larger space nor could they unite the people with a pan-Baloch appeal.

As a result, provincial politics remain fragmented, and the deep state does not have to do much. Of all the engineering that happened around 2018, the formation of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP) has been the easiest. The party came into being overnight, succeeded in forming the government in Balochistan, and became a coalition member of the PTI. During the last two weeks, members of the BAP have been joining the PPP; Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) (JUI-F) has also been witnessing a revival in the province, with some of the Baloch leaders joining the party. The end game here has not been clear so far.

The provincial politics here may not have much of an affect nationally. There are only 20 seats for the National Assembly from Balochistan. But, it may impinge on provincial politics. In Gwadar, there is a middle-class movement outside tribal politics taking shape. In the heart and west of the province, a slow-burn insurgency is on the rise led by Baloch militants. In the north, the Pashtun ingress into Balochistan from KP and Afghanistan continues, though politically they are divided, as could be seen from the Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PkMAP). There is a divide within the PkMAP, which can be seen from the recent splits, expulsions and related factional strife. The three sub-regions of the province are in different forms and stages of flux.

The stronghold

Of all the four provinces, the most stable politically is the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Mr. Khan is confident that his fort is holding, and that the PTI would win the province again. His confidence stems from the fact that none of the other parties are strong enough. The Awami National Party (ANP) which ruled the province from the days of the Khan brothers, PPP, PML-N and religious parties - all have declined during recent decades.

However, a threat to Mr. Khan's confidence could come from the young tribal uprising led by the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement, and the violence unleashed by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in the tribal regions. The first one is a socio-political movement demanding a new space for Pashtun youth; and the second one is a murderous terrorist organisation with whom Mr. Khan sympathised in the past.

Where is the political flux heading?

Political actors are getting ready to face the election this year. This is likely to make the situation unstable in the near future. The second reason for the flux is the change in the deep state's preference.

During the previous election, it decided to bring Imran Khan into the centre and propped the provinces to that goal. Political engineering in Punjab, Karachi and Balochistan were a part of the above design in 2018. Today, the situation is different, and stands reversed. Whether the deep state is with the PML-N or not is unclear but it is definitely not with Mr. Khan. Will it remain neutral? Contrary to the statements made by the outgoing army chief that the Establishment should stay out of politics, recent developments convey a different story.

Will Mr. Khan accept the emerging political situation, and the follow-up results, especially, if it is not in his favour? The possibility of Mr. Khan taking a confrontational position, and even boycotting the process cannot be overruled.

In any case, his recent decisions convey that he would not be likely to play by the rules.

D. Suba Chandran is Dean, School of Conflict and Security Studies at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru

THE GIST

Former Prime Minister and founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Imran Khan believes that the PTI has a better chance to return to power with more seats now. On the contrary, the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) (PML-N) and the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) have been trying to avoid holding elections immediately. They want more time to stabilise the economy and improve social conditions before asking the people to vote.

Of the 342 seats in the National Assembly, 272 are directly elected, and 70 are reserved for women and minorities. Put together (the open and reserved seats), Punjab alone has 173 seats, followed by Sindh (75), KP (55), and Balochistan (20). This means that the party that controls Punjab will control Pakistan.

One of the main reasons for the flux is the change in the deep state's preference. During the previous election, it favoured Imran Khan at the centre and propped the provinces to that goal. Today, the situation is different, and stands reversed.

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Soon, autos to have QR code with driver details and platform to lodge complaint

We are in talks with the autorickshaw unions and a software firm, and will come out with the upgraded policy soon, says M.A. Saleem, Special Commissioner (Traffic)

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The QR code system already exists in many cities, including Mumbai. FILE PHOTO

Autorickshaws in the city will soon sport a QR code behind the driver's seat which will not only provide the details of the driver and vehicle but also a platform to lodge a complaint in case the driver's behaviour warrants it.

"Bengaluru was the first city to introduce the driver details display board in autorickshaws in 2005, which will now be upgraded to a QR code facility, keeping with the times. We are in talks with the autorickshaw unions and a software firm and will come out with the upgraded policy soon," said M.A. Saleem, Special Commissioner (Traffic), Bengaluru. The QR code system already exists in many cities, including Mumbai.

"Drivers are supposed to renew their details in the driver database and display board every three years, which has not happened regularly. Today, there is no guarantee that the display board in an autorickshaw is accurate, defeating the purpose. So, a QR code, with no need for renewal often, will revamp this system," said M. Manjunath of Adarsha Auto Union.

The QR code will also likely include a platform to lodge a complaint against the driver in case of excess fare, refusal to ply, or misbehaviour. "We want to ensure convenience for passengers while protecting drivers from exploitation and help them lead a dignified life. We welcome the adaptation of QR code, but would appeal to the traffic police that it should not become another tool to impose penalties," said Srinivas, president, Federation of Bengaluru Autorickshaw Driver's Associations.

"However, many auto drivers are upset that while all enforcement was targeting them, even the government seemed helpless to rein in app-based aggregators. They argue that either there should be meter-based fares or a free hand for all. The government needs to understand this aspect as well," he said.

Meanwhile, the autorickshaw drivers unions are also working to incentivise good behaviour among drivers. "We have decided to introduce feedback cards in autorickshaws across the city. The drivers need to take the feedback of passengers on the cards and submit them to the unions, based on which we will recognise and award the best driver in the city," said Mr. Manjunath.

Many auto drivers are keen that the QR code that will be put in their rickshaws also include a digital payment gateway. "These days, most passengers do not have cash and ask to make digital payments. Some drivers take it on their phone, which is cumbersome. QR code with payment gateway will be of convenience to us and passengers," said Narayanaswamy, auto driver.

Pre-fixed auto stand opened

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M.A. Saleem, Special Commissioner (Traffic), inaugurated a pre-fixed auto stand at Orion Mall on Thursday. He announced that the traffic police will restart all 16 pre-fixed auto stands that were active before the pandemic. Dr. Saleem had said that the traffic police would start six more new pre-fixed auto stands near metro stations.

Nurse held for stealing gold from patients of St. Philomena's Hospital

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ashoknagar police arrested a staff nurse of a private hospital who, posing as a doctor, stole gold valuables from in-patients of St. Philomena's Hospital on January 11.

Based on a complaint by a patient's relatives, the police analysed CCTV footage and tracked down the accused Lakshmi. Upon questioning, Lakshmi confessed that she had met a man at the workplace and become close to him. The man had recorded private videos of her and was blackmailing her demanding money. Unable to bear the harassment, she started stealing valuables to pay the ransom, said the police.

They asked the St. Philomena's Hospital administration to step up security measures to ensure the safety of patients and attendants in the hospital.

NIA files chargesheet against two Al-Qaeda operatives

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday filed a chargesheet against two accused who were arrested from the city in July last year pertaining to a conspiracy and having affiliations with Al-Qaeda.

Based on central agencies' inputs, a team of CCB officials swooped down on a rented house in Tilaknagar and arrested 24-year-old Akhtar Hussain, who was working as a food delivery agent since January 2020.

Based on his information, the NIA officials later arrested his associate Abdul Alim Mondal, a resident of West Bengal who was working in a garment factory in Salem in Tamil Nadu. Both, according to officials, were said to be kingpins of the module.

According to an official release, the accused planned to send youth to Kashmir and Khorasan province of Afghanistan to undergo terrorist training.

The accused persons further provoked youth to instigate communal violence in India.

Online handlers

Investigations revealed that the accused were affiliated with Al-Qaeda, a proscribed terrorist organisation. They were also in contact with online handlers based abroad through end-to-end encrypted communication platforms.

Based on the directions of online handlers, the accused tried to recruit youth, to wage war against India and further they were planning to leave for Khorasan Province of Afghanistan for terrorist training. During investigations, lot of incriminating Jihadi materials were recovered at the instance of the accused, the NIA said.

IN THE COURT OF THE XII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, BENGALURU (CH-27)
Arbitration Application No. 95 of 2022

BETWEEN: Cornerstone Properties Private Limited, A company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 Having registered office at No. 540. CMH Road. Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560 038, (Represented by its authorized representative Kiran Poonacha ... **Petitioner**

AND: Smt. Anjinamma & Ors. ... **Respondents**

NOTICE TO RESPONDENTS NO. 01 TO 05 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908

To, **1) Smt. Anjinamma** W/o Basavaraj, aged about 59 years, ... **Respondent No.1, 2) Shri Basavaraj** S/o Shri Munibasappa, aged about 67 years, ... **Respondent No.2, 3) Smt. Bhavya** D/o Shri Basavraj, aged about 37 years, ... **Respondent No.3 4) Smt. Pushpa** D/o Shri Basavaraj, aged about 35 years, ... **Respondent No.4 5) Shri Manohar** S/o Shri Basavraj, aged about 33 years, ... **Respondent No.5,** Respondent Nos. 1 to 5 R/at: Doddacheemanahaili Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District - 562 110

Also at: Aluradoddanahalli Alududcianahalli, Dcvanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District - 562 110.

Whereas the Petitioner has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking grant of an order of temporary injunction restraining the Respondents, their agents representatives, successors-in-interest and anyone claiming through or under them from transferring, conveying, selling or alienating or entering into any arrangement/agreement with any property concerning and/or regarding the schedule property contrary to/prejudicial to the rights of the petitioner under the Agreement to Sell dated 06-10-2016. You are hereby summoned to appear before the XII Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bengaluru (CCH-27) at City Civil Court at Bangalore in person or by pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on **03-02-2023** at 11 AM, take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before, the suit be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being agricultural dry land bearing Sy. No.138, measuring 2 Acres, situated at Doddacheemanahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk and bounded as follows: **East by:** Land bearing Sy. No.86, **West by:** Land bearing Sy. No.136 and Sy. No.137, **North by:** Land bearing Sy. No.172 and **South by:** Land measuring Sy. No.180, Sy. No. 186 & Sy. No.86.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court, on 16-12-2022.

By order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.

Advocate for Petitioner: **Rohan Tigadi**
T Law Chambers,
Unit No.304, "A" Block, St. Patrick's Complex, Brigade Road, Bengaluru-25.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The originals of sale deed dated 31.07.2014, registered as document No.BSK-1-05406/2014-15, registered in the office of Sub registrar Basavanagudi Bengaluru. Measuring East to West 66 feet, North to South 15 feet, total measuring 990 sqft is lost. In this regard a police complaint is also lodged. The said **Smt.Cheluviyamma @ Selvi** died on 03-07-2015 and is being represented by her husband Sri.Narasimhulu, aged about 58 years R/at No.850, 2nd Cross, Near Maramma Temple, Kalidasanagar, Hosakerehalli, B.S.K 3rd Stage, Bengaluru South Taluk-560 085. In the event of any objections or if anybody finds the same may kindly be returned to the address below.

Manjunath K.V. & Associates, Advocates, No.359, New No.3/1,1st floor, 14th Cross, 4th Main, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore-560003

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client is in the process of transacting with **M/s. Sheela Yeshwantrao Chowgule Trust No. II and M/s. Vidhya Yeshwantrao Chowgule Trust No. II,** being the lawful owners and having absolute rights to the property more fully and particularly described in the Schedule hereunder (**"Schedule Property"**).

All persons claiming any right, title, benefit, claim, charge, interest or encumbrance whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, by way of possession, sale, exchange, assignment, lease, sub-lease, license, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien, occupation, trust, easement or otherwise, shall notify their objection in writing, together with documentary proof thereof to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication hereof. If no claims or objections are received within the above-mentioned period, then it shall be conclusively presumed that no person has any right, title, interest, claim, charge or encumbrance whatsoever with respect to the Schedule Property and our client will be entitled to proceed with its transaction with respect to the same.

SCHEDULE

Apartment No.122, Block I, on the first floor of "The Embassy" Apartment Complex, measuring 2,985 sq. ft of super built up area, inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas of common use with right to use one covered car parking space bearing No.13 in the basement and exclusive use of the terrace in front of this Apartment along with undivided right, title and interest measuring 1,181.13 sq. ft in the land on which "The Embassy" has been developed i.e., all that piece and parcel of Property bearing Corporation Old No.3, subsequently renumbered as 7 and now as 15 and situated in Ali Askar Road, Corporation Division No.71, Bangalore-560001 and bounded as follows: **East** Premises bearing New No.16 and Old No.4 and 3 of Ali Askar Road, and measuring about 116.76 metres on that side; **West** Carmellite Convent bearing Municipal New No.14 and Old No.2 and also the portion of the land retained by Mrs. Nizami and measuring about 87.79 metres plus 41.46 metres on that side; **North** Premises bearing New No.11 and Old No.9, Cunningham Road, and measuring about 73.17 metres on that side; and **South** Ali Askar Road and measuring about 74.69 metres plus 24.39 metres on that side and in all measuring about 9363 sq. Metres.

Veena Krishnan, Partner
Samvad Partners (Advocates)
62/1 Palace Road, Vasanthnagar
Bangalore 560001
Tel.: +91.80.4268.6000
Place: Bangalore
Date: 20-01-2023

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

Much to be excited for: Cillian Murphy as J. Robert Oppenheimer in *Oppenheimer;* Margot Robbie as Barbie in *Barbie.* AP

Sequels, superheroes, sci-fi and so much more: movies to look forward to in 2023

The new year is to a good start cinematically with releases such as the slick comic thriller *Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre* and horror flick *M3GAN*. Here is a list of movies that hold promise and which one can look forward to in the coming year

Mini Anthikad Chhibber

The early theatrical releases of 2023 augur well for the rest of the year. There was Guy Ritchie's slick spy comic thriller, *Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre*, with scene-stealing turns by Aubrey Plaza and Hugh Grant. The muscular, adrenaline-charged *Plane* harked back to lean, mean, fighting machine action movies of old. *M3GAN*, was the happiest kind of horror movie – smart, silly and scary.

Guns and roses

With such delicious starters, the banquet cannot fail to delight. Let us first get the sequels out of the way. There is *John Wick: Chapter 4* coming out on March 24. A sequel to 2019's *John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum*, the fourth instalment finds the well-dressed hitman played by Keanu Reeves continuing his run-ins with the high table. Chad Stahelski returns as director as do a fair number of cast.

Then there is the John Wick spin-off/sequel – *Ballerina*, directed by Len Wiseman. Ana de Armas does the dance of death as Rooney, a ballerina and an assassin – surely she must be having Hermione's time-turner to be able to train as both! And there is the mini-series, *Continental*. The year is proving to be a packed one for assassins.

Whip smart

There are sequels and there are sequels and this is one we have been waiting for forever, at least since 2008's *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* (2008). Steven Spielberg does not return to direct Indy's latest adventure, *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*. Helmed by James Mangold, the writing credits are shared by brothers, Jez and John-Henry Butterworth and Mangold after some back and forth with David Koepp and Jonathan Kasdan.

Releasing on June 30 , *Dial of Destiny* is set in 1969 at the height of the space race. Harrison Ford picks up his bull whip and fedora one final time as Indiana Jones, with his good friend Sallah (John Rhys-Davies) for company. Phoebe Waller-Bridge plays Helena, Indy's goddaughter – no mention of Mutt and Marion. Antonio Banderas plays another of Indy's friends, Renaldo. Mads Mikkelsen plays a former Nazi doing many a dastardly deed. It is definitely not the years, it's the mileage...

Pedal to metal

Talking of mileage, there is *Fast X*, the 10th and supposedly final instalment of the *Fast and Furious* franchise which morphed from petrol-heads hijacking trucks to spies dealing with James Bond-ian megalomaniacs. *Fast X* sees the return of practically everyone from Vin Diesel to Charlize Theron, except for Dwayne Johnson. Jason Momoa plays the antagonist. There will be all sorts of automobiles naturally, but this is the first movie in the franchise to feature electric cars. The film opens on May 19.

Super tsunami

The superhero tsunami continues unabated. Bookended with *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania* (February 17) and the James Wan directed *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom* (December 25), there is *Shazam! Fury of the Gods* (March 17), *Guardians of the Galaxy 3* (May 5), *Spider-Man: Across the Spiderverse* (June 2), *The Flash* (June 16), *The Marvels* (July 28), *Blue Beetle* (August 18) and *Kraven the Hunter* (October 6) providing for regular doses of spandex shenanigans throughout the year.

Riders on the dune

Superheroes to science fiction seems a natural progression and to this end there is Denis Villeneuve's *Dune: Part Two* out on November 3. Timothée Chalamet, Zendaya, and Javier Bardem, among others reprise their roles with Austin Butler and Christopher Walken joining in this adaptation of Frank Herbert's classic 1965 novel. Hopefully we will get to see the giant sandworms properly in this edition.

Speaking of giant worms, all creature features enthusiasts (including yours truly) have *Meg 2: The Trench* (August 4) to look forward. When in doubt, look to the sharks and if it is a megalodon shark supposed to be extinct so many million years ago, so much the better. Jason Statham reprises his role as rescue diver Jonas from 2018's *The Meg*.

Shiver me timbers

M. Night Shyamalan's *Knock at the Cabin* (February 3) follows in *M3GAN's* dainty demented footsteps. Based on Paul G. Tremblay's 2018 novel, the film stars Dave Bautista, Ben Aldridge, and Rupert Grint, in a story of a group of vacationers beset by wicked strangers. There are other serial spine chillers including *Evil Dead Rise, The Nun 2, Haunted Mansion, Scream VI* and an untitled *The Exorcist* film– ours is not to question why.

The slasher retelling of A. A. Milne and E. H. Shepard's beloved children's book, *Winnie-the-Pooh: Blood and Honey* might be interesting for the curdling of a classic. Then there are two movies from the Dracula universe – *The Last Voyage of the Demeter* (August 11) and *Renfield* (April 14). The former based on The Captain's Log chapter from Bram Stoker's 1897 novel is directed by André Øvredal. *Renfield* is a comic-horror story of Dracula's familiar directed by Chris McKay with Nicholas Hoult playing Renfield and Nicolas Cage as the bloodthirsty count.

Game on

Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves (March 31) with no connection to the earlier trilogy could be the start of a new series. Directed by Jonathan Goldstein and John Francis Daley, the film stars Chris Pine, Michelle Rodriguez and Regé-Jean Page.

All who enjoyed Hugh Grant as the bad boy billionaire in *Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre*, have a chance of a repeat performance in Grant as Rogue.

Movies are no child's play and so there is *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (April 7) and the long-awaited *Barbie* (July 21), based on the doll with the impossible figure.

With names such as Greta Gerwig (director) and Noah Baumbach (writer) attached to the project, we hope for much subversion in this Margot Robbie (Barbie) and Ryan Gosling (Ken) starrer.

Taking Manhattan

And if none of these can persuade you to go to theatres, not even to watch Mr Movie Star himself, Tom Cruise, in *Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One* on July 14, there is Christopher Nolan's biopic on the father of the atomic bomb, Robert Oppenheimer.

Starring Cillian Murphy in the title role, with an ensemble cast including Emily Blunt, Robert Downey Jr., Matt Damon, Rami Malek, Florence Pugh, Benny Safdie, Michael Angarano, Josh Hartnett and Kenneth Branagh, *Oppenheimer* releases on July 21.

It seems like a regular year at the movies with sequels, superheroes, horror, sci-fi, fantasy. Hopefully there would be a couple dark horses capturing the zeitgeist to race past the favourites. Otherwise there is always *Cocaine Bear*, about a big black bear that ingested a duffle bag full of cocaine or Kenneth Branagh returning as the magnificently mustachioed Hercule Poirot in *A Haunting in Venice* based on Agatha Christie's *Hallowe'en Party* on September 15.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Mr. Chandramodiswaran of Dharmapuri wants to know whether Mrs. Aquino can be called 'Presidentess.'"

" '-ess' is used as a feminine suffix in words like countess, lioness, waitress and goddess. Till the nineteenth century, there was a tendency to add -ess to nouns. There were words like husbandess, teetotaleress, writeress, drinkeress, umpiress, doctoress. In 1834, a writer suggested that women should be given their own degrees. They should not be bachelors or masters of art, but maidens or mistresses of art. Since the middle of the nineteenth century, there has been a tendency to drop gender-specific nouns. These days a serious woman writer would like to be called an 'author' rather than 'authoress,' a woman poet prefers to be called a 'poet' rather than 'poetess.' Words like authoress, actress and poetess should be avoided. What is important is the function performed, not the sex of the person mentioned.' The word 'Presidentess' would be considered offensive by Mrs. Aquino."

"Mr. C. Jaganmohan of Nellore wants to know the pronunciation of 'obituary.'"

"The 'o' and 'a' are pronounced like the final sound in China. The 'i' and the 'y' are pronounced like the 'i' in bit. The 'u' in the word is pronounced like the 'u' in university, union. The word is pronounced like 'abituari.' The stress is on the second syllable 'bit'. 'Obituary' is a notice of someone's death with a short account of his/her life. This is generally published in a newspaper."

"Mr. T. V. Soundaranjan of Salem wants to know the meaning of the idiom 'lock, stock and barrel.'"

"The lock, stock and barrel are the three parts of a firearm and these three together make up the whole gun. The idiom means 'completely, entirely, the whole thing.'

By the time I went there, he had sold his possessions lock, stock and barrel."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

As per ratification of the 20th Amendment in 1933, U.S. Presidents begin their term on January 20. A quiz on inaugurations gone by

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
In 1937, who became the first President to be inaugurated on the new date?

QUESTION 2
The first time a former President attended his son's inauguration was in 2001. Name the two Presidents.

QUESTION 3
What post-ceremony tradition started by Jimmy Carter in 1977 has been followed by his successors?

QUESTION 4
Both Barack Obama and Donald Trump took their oath on a Bible that was used by a former President. Name the President from the 19th Century.

QUESTION 5
The first inauguration to be televised was that of Harry. S. Truman in 1949. But whose ceremony was the first to be broadcast live on the Internet?

QUESTION 6
Who is the only outgoing President not to attend an inauguration ceremony in the 21st Century?

QUESTION 7
What is common to 'The Gift Outright', 'On the Pulse of Morning', and 'One Today'?

Visual question:
Identify this individual. What was her role in the 2021 inauguration? REUTERS

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This province has the highest population in China. **Ans: Guangdong**
2. This province, which is not an "autonomous region", has the lowest population in China. **Ans: Qinghai**
3. This province hosts the highest proportion of Buddhists in the country. **Ans: Fujian**
4. This city of China has the highest population among cities. **Ans: Shanghai**
5. The largest ethnic minority in China. **Ans: Zhuang people**
Visual: This is the photo of a hunter belonging to this ethnic minority group in China. **Ans: Uyghur**
Early Birds: Bhanu Priya Ashok| Vinoth A. R.| Vivek Khaiwal| K. N. Viswanathan

Word of the day

Depose:
force to leave (an office); declare under oath

Synonyms:
force out, swear

Usage:
The office deposed him during a board meeting

Pronunciation: bit.ly/deposepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /dɪˈpəʊz/

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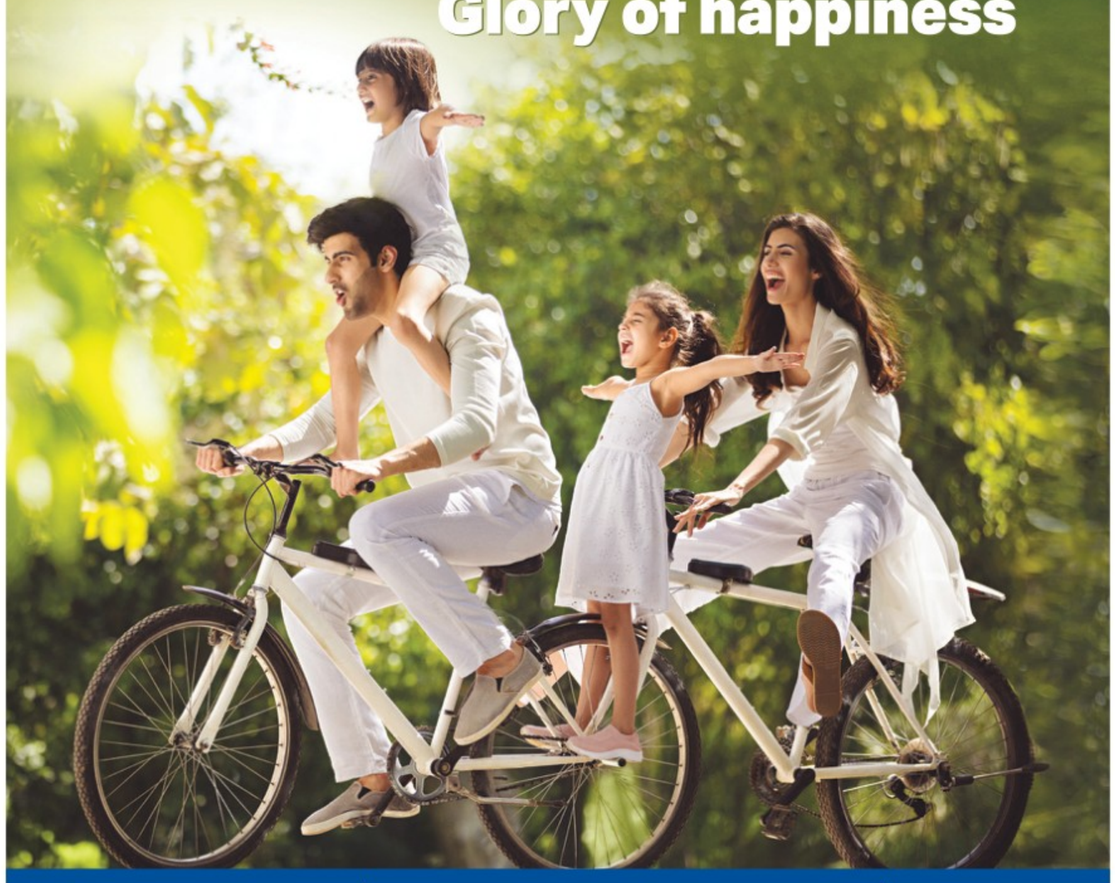

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Inmate of de-addiction centre beaten to death

He allegedly had an argument over demand for hot water and attacked a staff member, and was beaten up by others until he passed out

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 43-year-old man, who has been admitted to a de-addiction centre a week ago for treatment, was allegedly beaten to death by the inmates on Thursday.

Arif Nawaz Khan, a resident of Shampura, was a chronic alcoholic and was admitted to Deenabandhu Rehabilition Centre at Yelahanka New Town for treatment. Two days ago, Arif's brother came to give him clothes and saw him on the CCTV screen, as the management did not allow him to meet him in person.

The incident came to light when the family members got a call from the office on Thursday morning informing that Arif was unwell and needed hospitalisation.

Brought dead

By the time the family reached, Arif was lying motionless. They rushed him to hospital in Yelahanka where the doctors declared him as brought dead. The doctor also found multiple bruises on the body and suspected that he had been assaulted using rods and clubs, said the police.

The family complained to the police seeking action against the management, following which the police detained three staff members for questioning, charging them under murder.

Inquiries revealed that Arif had a heated argument over a demand for hot water and allegedly attacked one of the staff. The others reportedly beat him up until he passed out.

Admitted a week ago

The family said that Arif was married and had a child, and was addicted to alcohol and off late, he was behaving abnormally. The family, based on the advice of relatives and friends, admitted him a week ago to the rehabilitation centre and paid the fee anticipating that he would recover from addiction.

Gold loan firm manager held for stealing valuables

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Nandini Layout police have arrested a 25-year-old manager of a gold loan company for allegedly stealing valuables from the office where he was working.

Based on a complaint, the police tracked down Siddesh from Madhugiri, arrested him, and recovered 42 gm of gold valuables worth ₹1.45 lakh. The theft came to light when Siddesh went on unauthorised absent from work and was not reachable on phone for days. Suspecting something fishy, the others checked the inventory to find the valuables missing. Siddesh confessed that he had financial problems and had committed the theft, the police said.

21-year-old arrested for attempting to break open ATM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kamakshipalya police on Wednesday arrested a 21-year-old waiter of a bar and restaurant for allegedly attempting to break open an ATM situated near his workplace.

Based on a complaint from the bank staff that someone had attempted to steal money and damaged the ATM, the police verified the CCTV footage and arrested Karichittappa K. from his hometown at Maraluru circle in Tumakuru. The accused was working in Kamakshipalya and had hatched a plan to become rich overnight by stealing money from ATMs.

The police have taken him into custody to ascertain his criminal background.

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INAUGURATION
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Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka
INAUGURATION OF KARNATAKA PAVILION
Shri PRALHAD JOSHI
Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal & Mines, Govt. of India
INAUGURATION OF FARMERS' AND INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP
Ku. SHOBHA KARANDLAJE
Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare Govt. of India
INAUGURATION OF PRODUCERS' MARKETEERS'-B2B MEET
Shri KAILASH CHOUDHARY
Hon'ble Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Govt. of India
AUGUST PRESENCE AND EXHIBITION INAUGURATION
Shri B.C. PATIL
Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Govt. of Karnataka and Chairman, International Trade Fair on Millets and Organics-2023
SEEMI MILLET BRAND RELEASE AND PRESIDED BY
Dr. ASHWATH NARAYANA C.N.
Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, IT & BT and Science & Technology, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, Govt. of Karnataka
BOOK RELEASE - "PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY OF MILLETS" BY GUESTS OF HONOUR
Hon'ble Chairman, Legislative Council | Hon'ble Speaker, Legislative Assembly | Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly | Members of the Council of Ministers of State Govt. | Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council | Hon'ble Chief Whip of the Ruling Party in the Legislative Assembly | Hon'ble Chief Whip of the Ruling Party in the Legislative Council | Hon'ble Chief Whip of the Opposition Party in the Legislative Council | Hon'ble MPs, Hon'ble MLAs and MLCs | Hon'ble Chairpersons of Boards – Corporations will participate as Guests of Honour.
Shri B.C. Patil, Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture interacting with farmers.
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As is enshrined in our Constitution, to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka under taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1 H.R.B.H.L.C Division, Gorur Hassan District.-573120

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION Tender Notification No. 22/2022-23 Dated: 16.01.2023 (Two covers System)

On behalf of the Managing Director Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer CNNL, No.1 HRBHLC Division, Gorur invites tenders on ITEM RATE basis from the contractors for three works for general category contractors. The two cover tender procedure as per rule – 28 of KTPP Act be followed. The tenderers are required to submit two separate sealed covers, Ist Cover (Technical Bid) containing EMD with technical details of their capability to undertake the tender (as detailed in instructions to tenders Clause – I to XIV) and another containing Financial bid. The financial bid will be opened only if the tenderers are found to be qualified to execute the tendered work. The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified. The maximum approximate amount put to tender Rs 82.00Lakhs and minimum approximate amount put to tender Rs 73.80 Lakhs Stipulated period of completion: 6 months Category of contractor eligible : for contractors of PWD Class-3 and Above. The contractors can request for e-tendering documents from 19.01.2023 11.00 Am in the web site http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in link e-tender document on payment (non-refundable) for work towards the transaction fee (As per E-portal). While applying the contactors can pay the transaction fee in the e-procurement portal using payment modes - I Credit card/Direct Debit/National electronic fund transfer (NEFT)/over the counter (OTC) up to 27.01.2023 up to 16th hour. Cover-I (Technical Bid) will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, HRBHLC Division, Gorur on 30.01.2023, Cover-II (Financial Bid) of qualified bidders will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, No.1, HRBHLC Division, Gorur after approval of Technical bid.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, No.1 HRBHLC Division, Gorur

ಬಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಟೆಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/ಎಂಸಿಎ/977/2022–23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.:605/EEE/MWD/AEE(O)/HBL/2022-23/1926-34 Date: 17.01.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited is energizing Establishing 2 X 100MVA, 220/110/11kV Sub-station at Shiggaon (Ganjigatti) in Shiggaon Taluk, Haveri District with Construction of 220kV MC (DC LILO) line from 220kV Narendra-Haveri DC line to proposed 220/11KV Sub station at Shiggaon (2.48 Kms) and construction of 110KV DC (SC LILO) line from proposed 220KV Shiggaon Sub station to 110KV Shiggaon - Savanur SC line in Haveri District (0.336Kms) and construction 110KV DC (SC LILO) line from proposed 220KV Shiggaon Sub station to 110KV Ramanakoppa-Mundagod SC line in Haveri District (4.362 Kms) on or after **24-01-2023.** The above lines are passing through the areas of **Shiggaon Taluk, Bishettikoppa, Vanahalli, Ganjigatti, Bannikoppa, Mugali villages and surroundings areas.**

The above said Transmission line will be energized on or after **24-01-2023.** The general public residing near the said newly constructed 220KV and 110KV lines and surrounding villages are requested to keep away from this power line towers, not to tie animals to the towers and not to throw green sticks, wires, tree branches etc., on the lines and not to climb the towers. If any body does these things, it will be most dangerous to their lives or to their animals. Public of the above villages are requested to take utmost care. KPTCL will not be responsible for any accidents due to the above mentioned causes.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Elecl.), Major Works Division, Haveri District, KPTCL, Haveri

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, hitherto known as Dhanush R alias Dhanush Raghavendra S/o Raghavendra R/o H.No. 9-207-8, Raghavendra Nilaya, Rajeeva Nagar, 2nd Cross, Nejar, Santhekatte Udupi - 576105, Karnataka, India, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Dhanush Raghavendra.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 26th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH- 20) O.S. NO. 25075/2020

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G. **...Plaintiff**

Vs.

Mr. Preetham M. ...Defendant

Summons to Defendant

Mr. Preetham M. S/o. Mr. Mukesh, Aged About 35 Years, 83, 2nd Cross, Shree Madheshwara Nilaya, 1st Floor, 3rd Cross, Ullal Main Road, Annapoornewshari Layout, Bangalore- 560056.

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 2,96,276.86/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Six and Paise Eighty Six Only)** apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25075/2020** and same is pending adjudication in CCH-20, Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 20th Day of March, 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 11th day of January, 2023.

By Order of the Court Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, BENGALURU- 560001

FX & CO., ADVOCATES New No., Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560005.

IN THE COURT OF ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 20) O.S.No. 26108 /2017

Between :
RBL Bank Limited, Having its Registered office at Shahpuri,Kollapur 416001, Inter alia having its branch office at Kormangala Branch, No.631, 3rd Cross Road, 100 Feet Road, 3rd Block, Kormangala, Bangalore Repesented by its Authorised Officer Mr. Rajesh Kumar A

And

1. **M/s. Glomac Retail Fixtures India Private limited,** No.22/1, Jetty Palya, Off: Magadi Main Road, TAVA Chennenahalli Village, Bangalore-562130 Represented by its Director **Mr. Swaminathan G**
2. **Mr. Swaminathan G,** Aged Major, No.105/106, Anu Plaza, Ramchandrapura Main Road, Vidhyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097.
3. **Sukanya Swaminathan,** Aged Major, No.105/106, Anu Plaza, Ramchandrapura Main Road, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore-560097.

Summons to Defendants

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a Sum of **Rs.4,50,896.25 (Rupees Four Lakh Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Six and paise Twenty Five Only)** apart from future interest of 19% p.a. in **O.S. No. 26108/2017** and same is pending adjudication in CCH 20, Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **24th Day of February 2023 at 11.A.M,** to answer to the same, if failed.

The suit will be decided in your absence Exparte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the **13th day of January 2023.**

Sd/- Deputy Registrar, Advocates, City Civil Court, Mayohall Bengaluru-560001.

Sd/- By the Order of Court FX & Co., New No.99, OLD No.11/1, Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru-560005.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 74th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-75) O.S. NO. 25969/2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited, Having its Registered office at Land Mark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051 and its branch office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa **...Plaintiff**

And

Sri. Ranjith R. ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri. Ranjith R.
S/o Sri. Raja, Aged about 31 years, No.65, Avanisrungeri Nagar, Nyanappanahalli, Bluezoom School, Bangalore South, Bangalore- 560 076

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs.2,09,393/- (Rupees Two Lakh Nine Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Three Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 74th Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-75) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 14.03.2023 at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 12.01.2023.

By Order of the Hon'ble Court Deputy Registrar City Civil Court MayoHall Unit, Bangalore

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF SA Associates, No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

IN THE COURT OF 73rd HON'BLE CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU, MAYOHALL (CH-74) O.S. NO. 25486/2021

BETWEEN :
M/s ICICI BANK LTD.
And represented by its Collection Manager Mr. Pramodh G. **...Plaintiff**

And

Mr. Pitchuka Durga Vara Prasad **...Defendant**

Summons to Defendant

MR. PITCHUKA DURGA VARAPRASAD
S/o. Vitaleshwara Rao Pitchuka Aged about 34 Years, R/at No. 34, Ground Floor Near Greens Apartment Doddanakkundi, Marathalli Bangalore- 560037

Also at:
No. A 11, Police Quarters Opp. N.R. I. Junior College Vidyanagar 2nd Line Guntur, Pattabhipuram (Guntur) Andhra Pradesh- 522006

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted the above proceedings against you seeking recovery of Rs.6,40,584.54 as on 26/03/2021 along with interest 24% P.A. and other consequential relief. You are hereby summoned to appear before the **Hon'ble City Civil Judge, Mayo hall at Bangalore** (CH-74) in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on 20-02-2023 at 11.00 AM, take notice that in default of your appearance on the day mentioned before the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this 12th January, 2023.

By order of this Hon'ble Court Deputy Registrar City Civil Court- Mayo hall

Advocate for Plaintiff ANVAYA LAW, ADVOCATE AND CONSULTANTS First Floor, Indian Express Building No. 1, Queens Road Bengaluru- 560001 Cell No. 9845806822

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 13th ADDL, CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 22) O.S. No 25840/2022

BETWEEN :
M/s. ICICI BANK LIMITED Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001 Represented by its Manager and Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff

V/S

Mr. Deepak & Anr. ...Defendant

Summons to Defendant

1. Mr. Deepak D.
S/o. Mr. Devaraju, Aged About 19 Years, Cheeluru, Kanakapura Town, Ramanager-56212.

2. Mr. Devaraju
S/o. Muddalinge Gowda, Aged Major, Cheeluru, Kanakapura Town, Ramanager-5621122

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 4,87,127/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty Seven Only)** apart from future interest of 10.50 % p.a., in **O.S. No. 25840/2022** and same is pending adjudication in CCH- 22, Before Addl., City Civil Court. Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear belore the Hon'ble Court on the **15th Day of February, 2023** at **11 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

By the order of court Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, BENGALURU-560 001

FX &C0., ADVOCATES, New NO.9, OLD NO.11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, BENGALURU- 560 005.

IN THE COURT OF THE 73rd ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH - 74) O.S. NO. 25562/ 2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited, Having its Registered office at Land Mark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its branch office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa **...Plaintiff**

And

Sri. Mohan P. **...Defendant**

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri. Mohan P.
S/o. Sri. Putta Raju,
Aged about 38 years,
No. 291/1, 2nd Floor, 9th Pamp Cross,
Chamundeshwari, Near Nexa Builders, DC Halli, Bangalore- 560068

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs.3,42,800/- (Rupees Three Lakh Forty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Only) together with interest @ 18% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH-20) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on27.02.2023 at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 12/01/ 2023.

By order of the Hon'ble Court, Deputy Registrar City Civil Court Mayohall Unit, Bangalore

Advocate for Plaintiff S A Associates, No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH - 74) O.S. NO. 26437/2022

Between
ICICI Bank Limited, Having its Registered office at Land Mark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its branch office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa ...Plaintiff

And

Ms. Ayesha Tabassum ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Ms. Ayesha Tabassum,
D/o Mr. Baba Jan,
Aged about 38 years,
Proprietor of Limra Enterprises, No.3, 4th Cross, Byrappa Layout, Bangalore - 560 045

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs.7,18,900/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH -75) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 10.03.2023 at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 09.01.2023.

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT ADVOCATE OR PLAINTIFF S A Associates, No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

IN THE COURT OF THE 74th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH - 75) O.S. NO. 25941/2022

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Limited, Having its Registered office at Land Mark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051 and its branch office at Mystree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068
Represented by its POA Holder Sri. Pramodh Gurumallappa **...Plaintiff**

And

Sri. Omkar Samarth S. & Another **...Defendants**

Summons to Defendant NO. 1&2

To,
D1. Sri. Omkar Samarth S, S/o. Sri. Shashikanth, Aged about 23 years, No.B101, Indberg, Mallathahalli Main Road, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru-560 072
D2. Sri. Shashikanth S/o. Sri. Putttappa Bageri Belur Gowda, Aged about 66 years, No.B101, Indberg, Mallathahalli Main Road, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru-560 072

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs.9,43,537/- (Rupees Nine Lakh Forty Three Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Seven Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble 74th)Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH- 75) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 14-03-2023 at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 12/01/2023.

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT, DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYOHALL UNIT, BENGALURU

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF SA Associates, No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

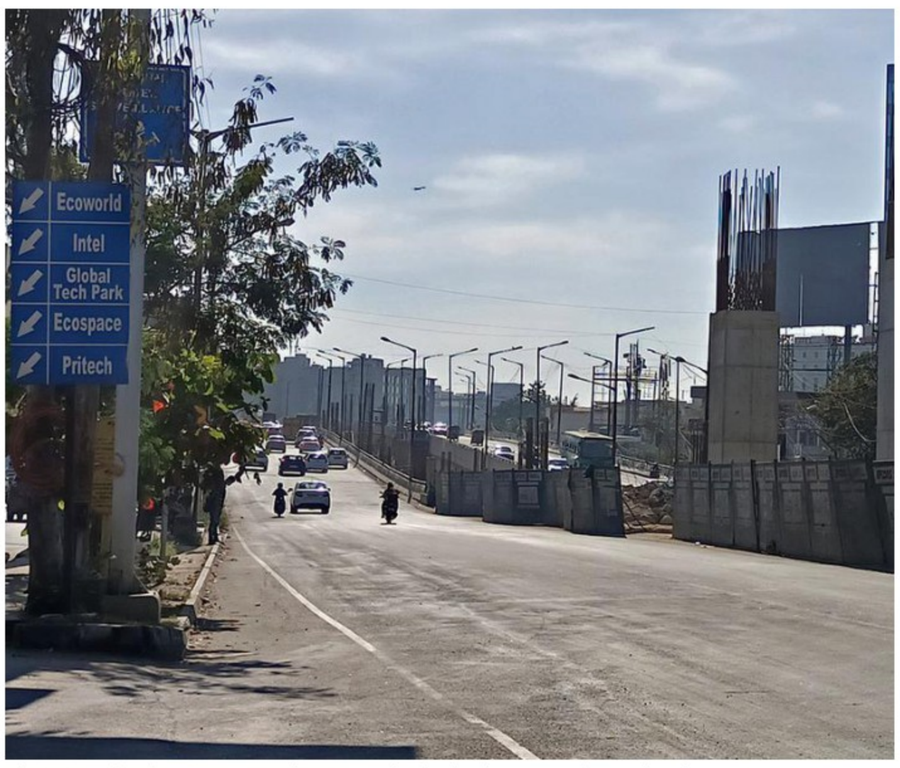
Low on priority? Bus lane worth ₹14.3 crore 'disappears'

Once the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. started work on ORR, the road narrowed, and authorities removed all the bollards installed to demarcate bus priority; BMRCL has been directed to reinstall them after the work is over, says BBMP

Suchith Kidiyoor
Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

In 2019, with much fanfare, the 'priority bus lane' was opened on a stretch of 17 km between Silk Board and K.R. Puram at a cost of ₹14.3 crore. Today, it has "disappeared".

Once the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) started work on the Outer Ring Road (ORR), the road narrowed and authorities decided to remove all the bollards installed to demarcate the bus priority. The BMRCL is building over 750 pillars on ORR to facilitate the construction works on the median of the road, which requires nine metres of space.



The 'priority bus lane' was opened on a stretch of 17 km between Silk Board and K.R. Puram.
SUCHITH KIDIYOOR

Signage remains

As the metro work progressed, demands came from various quarters to allow all types of vehicles on the priority lane. Recently, the authorities re-asphalted the road, including the stretch that was dedicated for bus lanes.

However, signage about instructing motorists to not use bus lanes, cautioning about surveillance cameras and others still remains. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has removed 25,000 fibre-reinforced bollards protecting the bus lanes on both sides of the ORR.

The BBMP, which installed the bollards on the ORR as per the plan given by Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), gave responsibility of removing the bollards to BMRCL.

'Nothing will be wasted'

An BBMP official said: "We have directed the BMRCL to store the bollards and reinstall it in future once the work on the stretch is completed. Any material used for the bus lanes will not be wasted."

V. Manjula, commissioner of DULT, also said that BMRCL will reinstall the bollards once the work is completed. "Since the road was narrow after the Namma Metro work started, the bus lane was removed, and we have told the BMRCL to reinstall the bollards once the metro work is done."

A senior traffic official said: "After the metro works started on ORR, traffic flow got impacted as the width of the main lanes narrowed. For smooth flow of the traffic on ORR, many measures have been put in place. We have asked the BMTC to instruct their bus drivers to use the service roads instead of taking the main lanes. Rest of the traffic will go on main lanes. This will help in decongesting the traffic wherever possible. Bus stops will be temporarily shifted on the service roads till completion of the metro project."

"Only after 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. we allow for closure of roads wherever required, for movement of heavy machinery or construction material. On other hand, we have also asked the BMRCL to remove the barricade once they are done with construction of the pillar. We are also getting support for manning the traffic. Considering the safety of pedestrians, the BBMP has been asked to provide lifts or provide safe access to the skywalk," the official added.

P.N. Rao honours 100 individuals on its centenary anniversary

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

City-based suits and accessories brand P.N. Rao, which completed a century of operation here, recognised and felicitated 100 individuals who contributed to the growth of Bengaluru on Thursday.

P.N Rao was set up in 1923 by Pishe Narayan Rao, to tailor stylish dresses for high-ranking British officials and their wives. Naveen Pishe, partner, P.N. Rao, said: "The brand has built one of the largest bespoke tailoring units on the outskirts of Bengaluru to cater to the growing requirements for personalised suits.'

"From a humble beginning, the brand has grown along with the city and holds a very special place in the hearts of people,' said Ketan Pishe, also a partner.

To commemorate its centenary, the brand released a coffee table book depicting the growth journeys of P.N. Rao and Bengaluru city in the last 100 years. The bust of the late Pishe Narayan Rao was also unveiled.

INBRIEF

CREDAI writes to FM seeking simplification of tax norms

The Confederation of Real Estate Developers Associations' of India (CREDAI), Bengaluru, has appealed to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman to make a slew of amendments in both direct and indirect taxes related to the real estate sector to enable seamless business operations. The letter comes ahead of the Union Budget to be presented on February 1. CREDAI, Bengaluru, has appealed for simplification of long-term capital gains on real estate, removal of Section 43 CA for primary sale transactions, amendment to Section 80C to increase limit for repayment of housing loan principal, and introduction of new provisions to promote rental housing.

Disruption in power supply today and tomorrow

There will be disruption in power supply from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on January 20 and January 21 in areas serviced from 220/66/11 KV HSR MUSS. The areas to be affected are: **January 20:** 66/11 KV Sobha Forest View MUSS: Areas affected are: Sobha Forest apartments, Talaghattapura and surrounding areas. **January 21:** 220/66/11 KV Naganathapura MUSS: Hosur Main Road, Bandepalya, Singasandra, G.B. Palya, Kudlu Gate, AECS Layout, A and B Blocks, Hongasandra, Om Shakthi Layout, Bommanahalli, Bommanahalli Industrial Area, Chikka Begur Gate, Concord Layout, Muneshwara Layout, Haralukunte, Hosapalya, Yellukunte. 66/11 KV Electronic City (Keonics) MUSS: Electronics City Phase-1, Neeladri Road areas, HCL E-City Phase-1.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JAN. 20		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:15
RISE	05:04	SET 16:38
SATURDAY, JAN. 21		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:15
RISE	06:10	SET 17:48
SUNDAY, JAN. 22		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:16
RISE	07:12	SET 18:55

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	18
Mysuru	31	14
Bengaluru	29	15

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be very cool with shallow fog and mist. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C A dry weather to continue. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool with haze and mist.

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THE HINDU
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PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR LOST OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENT

This is inform to the General Public, My Client **Sri. Nagar Shreesha Sreedhara,** Aged about 41 years, Son of Nagar Sreedhara Krishnamurthy, presently residing at Flat No. B2303, Sattva Opus, No. 56, Tumkur Road, Opp Metro Pillar 85, Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560 057. Had lost the Original Absolute Sale Deed, in respect to the below mentioned Schedule Property, bearing **Registered Document No. RMN-1-03158-2007-08, Stored in CD No. RMND63, Dated 20.08.2007,** and given E-lost (Police Complaint) report (U/s155 CRPC) No. 429493/2022, dated 19.12.2022. My Client further **inform to the General Public,** If any transaction carrying with the said documents my client is not responsible of any loss or right of the General Public in respect of schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No. 42, Khata No. 339/238/42 formed out of Sy. No. 131/1, 131/2, 131/3, 115/2 and 155/3** duly converted for Non-Agricultural Residential purposes, vide No. A.L.N. SR.21/2002-2003, dated 18.03.2003, issued by the Assistant Commissioner, Ramanagara, situated at **URAGAHALLI VILLAGE,** Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, coming under the limits of Gopalli Village Panchayath, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet and bounded on; **East by :** Site No. 53 **West by :** Road **North by**: Site No. 41 **South by :** Site No. 43.

IF FOUND PLEASE CONTACT:
A. MURTHY, Advocate,
No.1, 5th Main, Bagalur Road, Opp. Big Market & ICICI Bank, Vinayakanagar, IAF Post,
Bangalore - 560064. Mobile: 96205 11295
Place: Bangalore
Date: 20.01.2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, **Mrs. Sajida Khanum,** W/o. Mr. Moinuddin Khan, and aged about 38 years, R/at. No.590, 7th Main, 1st Stage, 3rd Block, HBR Layout, Bangalore-560043. Has agreed to purchase property (morefully described in the schedule hereunder), from the absolute owner, **Sri. H. Bhuvan,** Son of Harish .H.N, aged about 22 years, residing at No.76, Kurki Village, Narasapura Post, Kolar Taluk, Kolar District. Pin No.563133.

Any person having any right, title, interest or claim over the schedule property or any person who has any objection for the above property, shall lodge their claim within 15 days, with documentary evidence, with the undersigned, failing which it shall be presumed that there is no objection for completion of the transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property Bearing Site No. 53, BBMP Khatha No.1499/56/3/53, Situated at 1st Cross, Imdad Nagar, HBR Layout 4th Block, Behind Noorani Masjid, Hennur, Bengaluru-560043. Formed out of Survey No.56/3, at Hennur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, (BBMP Ward No. 24) Bangalore, Now comes under BBMP Limits, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 23 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, totally Measuring 920 Square Feet and Bounded on the: **East By**: Private Property , **West By**: Road, **North By**: Private Property RCC Building, **South By**: Private RCC Building.

P.M. MOHAMMED ASHRAF, Advocate
M/s. P.H. MOHAMMED ASSOCIATES,
No. 24, Davis Road, Cooke Town,
Bangalore-560084,
E-mail: ashrafpm2901@gmail.com
Date: 20-01-2023

IN THE COURT OF THE 57th ADDL, CITY SESSION JUDGE MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH-58)
A.A 25061/2022

PETITIONER: Sri. H.K. ANANTRAMU, S/o. Sri. H. Keshavamurthy, A/a. 59 years, R/a. No. 1021, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Geetanjali Layout, New Thippasandra, Bangalore - 560 075.
V/s
RESPONDENTS: M/s. AUROME INFRA PVT Ltd, & others
NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT No. 1 TO 4

1. M/s. AUROME INFRA PVT Ltd, Having its registered office at: No. 42, 100 feet Road, 17th Main, Koramangala 4th block, Bangalore - 560 034. **2) Mr. RANGANATH. R.S,** S/o. Late Ramachandrappa, A/a. 60 years, R/a. No. 22/1, 4th Main, Malleshwaram, Bangalore- 560003. **3) M/s. SRI MEENAKSHI DEVELOPERS,** Having office at: 22/1, 4th Main, Malleshwaram, Bangalore - 560003. **4) M/s. SRI RANGA HILLS GOLF CLUB & RESORT,** Having office at: 22/1, 4th Main, Malleshwaram, Bangalore - 560003. Rep by Mrs. Ranganath-Partner.

Whereas the above named Petitioner has made a petition to before the Hon'ble Court (CCH-58), Mayo Hall Unit, under section 9 (ii) (C) & © of the Arbitration and Reconciliation Act 1996, praying to pass an order, restraining the Respondents jointly or severally from alienating the schedule properties and /or any portion thereof and/or in any manner encumbering and/or creating any third party rights or changes of any nature whatsoever against Respondent No. 1, 2, 3 & 4.

Respondent No. 1, 2, 3 & 4 are hereby directed to appear on **20th February, 2023,** at 11:00 am before 57th Addl, City Civil & Sessions Judge, Mayohall, Bangalore this Hon'ble Court (CCH-58) failing which you will be treated as ex-parte and the case will be decided in accordance with law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
Item No. 1 (Property owned by the 1st Respondent)

Sl No	Land Owner	Survey No.	Extent	Regd. Date
1.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	415/13	4.00	8.9.2014
2.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	431/2	2.98	15.10.2014
3.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	385/2	1.90	15.10.2014
4.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	431/1	0.40	27.11.2014
5.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	18/4	2.68	20.11.2014
6.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	374/2	0.52	11.12.2014
7.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	33/2C	0.73	11.12.2014
8.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	381/1	0.52	29.12.2014
9.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	381/5 & 7	0.31	14.1.2015
10.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	407/1b1	0.40	30.1.2015
11.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	381/4	0.37	30.1.2015
12.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	275/1 & 3	1.40	19.2.2015
13.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	380/1	0.30	1.4.2015
14.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	277/2B	0.65	23.4.2015
15.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	381/11	0.36	29.4.2015
16.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	265/1 & 3	4.34	27.5.2015
17.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	364/2	2.94	3.7.2015
18.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	397/2	3.74	3.7.2015
19.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	399/5	3.00	27.7.2015
20.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	16/2	0.90	4.7.2015
21.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	11/1, 11/7C	1.95	9.11.2015
22.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	11/2,	1.73	9.11.2015
23.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	11/5 & 11/7B	0.58	7.4.2016
24.	Aurome Infra Pvt. Ltd.,	381/12385/2 part	0.35	13.6.2015
	Total extent of lands		**37.05**	

Item No. 2 (Property owned by Respondent No. 2)

No.	Survey No	Land title holders	Regd. document No	Date	Extent (Acres)
1	360/1	R.S Ranganath	1018/2004	01.07.2004	1.35
2	360/5	R.S Ranganath	1018/2004	01.07.2004	0.74
2A	360/5	R.S Ranganath	978/2004	25.07.2004	0.74
3	360/6	R.S Ranganath	1018/2004	01.07.2004	1.96
4	360/7	R.S Ranganath	978/2004	25.07.2004	1.63
5	360/8	R.S Ranganath	978/2004	25.07.2004	0.16
6	360/2	R.S Ranganath	853/2004	03.07.2004	1.27
7	363/1	R.S Ranganath	1183/2004	04.08.2004	4.52
8	364/1B	R.S Ranganath	1184/2004	04.08.2004	3.45
9	364/1A	R.S Ranganath	1253/2004	12.08.2004	2.33
10	352/3A	R.S Ranganath	1254/2004	12.08.2004	3.51
11	386/1	R.S Ranganath	1271/2004	13.08.2004	2.50
12	386/2	R.S Ranganath	1271/2004	13.08.2004	1.45
13	390/2	R.S Ranganath	1802/2006	26.06.2006	2.25
13A	390/2	R.S Ranganath	3166/2008	28.07.2008	1.26
15	391/2	R.S Ranganath	3067/2006	06.10.2006	3.20
16	406/2B1	R.S Ranganath	275/2009	05.02.2009	0.61
17	406/2B2	R.S Ranganath	275/2009	05.02.2009	1.15
18	407/1B2	R.S Ranganath	421/2009	23.02.2009	0.70
19	407/1A	R.S Ranganath	422/2009	23.02.2009	0.60
20	407/1D	R.S Ranganath	649/2009	16.03.2009	4.00
21	397/3	R.S Ranganath	2063/2010	16.06.2010	1.69
22	391/3	R.S Ranganath	4486/2010	30.11.2010	2.14
23	386/1A	R.S Ranganath	2077/2013	27.05.2013	1.48
24	366/3A	R.S Ranganath	100/2011	10.01.2011	2.00
25	355/1	R.S Ranganath			0.90
					47.59

Item No. 3 (Property owned by Respondent No. 3)

No.	Survey No	Land title holders	Regd. document No	Date	Extent (Acres)
1	340/2	Sri meenakshi Developers	1321/2004	19.08.2004	0.88
2	341/1	Sri meenakshi Developers	467/2004	19.08.2004	1.90
3	341/3	Sri meenakshi Developers	467/2004	19.08.2004	0.65
4	341/4	Sri meenakshi Developers	467/2004	19.08.2004	2.96
5	341/5	Sri meenakshi Developers	467/2004	19.08.2004	2.89
6	363/2	Sri meenakshi Developers	1335/2004	19.08.2004	3.48
7	365/1	Sri meenakshi Developers	1508/2004	21.09.2004	3.67
8	365/2	Sri meenakshi Developers	1508/2004	21.09.2004	1.01
9	388/1A	Sri meenakshi Developers	1508/2004	21.09.2004	3.06
10	388/2	Sri meenakshi Developers	1508/2004	21.09.2004	0.90
11	388/3	Sri meenakshi Developers	1508/2004	21.09.2004	1.04
12	390/1	Sri meenakshi Developers	1425/2004	07.09.2004	3.64
13	405/1	Sri meenakshi Developers	1921/2004	02.12.2004	2.66
14	406/2A	Sri meenakshi Developers	1922/2004	02.12.2004	4.64
15	352/1	Sri meenakshi Developers	1803/2006	26.06.2006	0.04
16	352/3A	Sri meenakshi Developers	1803/2006	26.06.2006	3.5
17	352/3B	Sri meenakshi Developers	506/2005	24.03.2005	2.20
18	387/	Sri meenakshi Developers	768/2006	13.03.2006	8.36
19	389/1	Sri meenakshi Developers	494/2009	02.03.2009	2.00
20	389/1	Sri meenakshi Developers	409/2010	10.02.2010	0.14
					46.12

Item No. 4 (Property owned by Respondent No. 4)

1	398/1	Sri Ranga golf club & resorts	1343/2014	09.04.2014	4.32
2	403/3	Sri Ranga golf club & resorts	430/2004	7.2.2014	0.68
3	17/3B	Sri Ranga golf club & resorts	2195/2014	1.06.2014	2.09
4	17/3C	Sri Ranga golf club & resorts	2195/2014	11.06.2014	2.24
5	403/2	Sri Ranga golf club & resorts	1343/2014	09.04.2014	1.48
6	405/2	Sri Ranga golf club & resorts	1036/20104	11.8.2014	1.36
					12.17

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this 18th Day of January, 2023

Advocate for Petitioner
KREIOZ, LEGAL SOLUTIONS
F.Mir Parveez Ahmed, Attorney of Law
Suite-405, Regency Enclave, #4, Magrath Road, Bangalore-560025.

By order of the Court, Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayo Hall Unit Bangalore

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-procurement mode only)

No. SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AEE-2/F-97(11)/22-23/11049-52 Date: 19.01.2023 KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No.: **KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(N)/EE(O)/AE/22-23/Shift/EPR-42, 43, 44, 45 & 46 Dated 18.01.2023** for "Tender for providing manpower services for carrying out shift operations and minor maintenance works at **220/66/11kV Manyatha GIS, 220/66/11kV Brindavana GIS, 66/11KV Brigade gateway GIS, 66/11KV Kanteerava GIS and 66/11KV Remco GIS** stations in the jurisdictions of BMAZ North Circle".

The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **'e-Procurement-KPTCL'** or to **https:.//eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **20.01.2023**.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl.,
Transmission(Maintenance),BMAZ North Circle, KPTCL,
Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R.Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009.

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan,
K.G. Road, Bengaluru-560009

SHORT TERM TENDER (Through E-Procurement portal)

- **Name of work :** Appointment of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for the Construction of Minority Welfare Department, Morarji Desai Residential PU College at Thegur Village, Chikkamagaluru District.
- **Notification No.:** KHB/CE/MDPUC/PMC/NIT No. 245/2022-23 Date: 12.01.2023
- Last date for submission of bid- **31.01.2023 up to 4.00 PM**

For more information contact below mentioned office address: **Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bangalore, Telephone No. 080-22273511/080-22100077, website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/4183/AKAR/22-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, BIDAR

Ref:EE/RDWSD/Bidar/PB-1-5/Tender/2022-23/2055 Date: 18.01.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer RDWS & S Division Bidar invites Tenders from eligible bidders for the works above Rs. 20.99 Lakhs to 358.60 Lakhs (56 Nos of works) as per KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4 Standard Tender Bid Document under H/A JJM & KKRDB for the year 2022-23 through e-Procurement platform www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in only. The KTPP Act shall be followed.

TIME SCHEDULE

1) Notification Date and Download of tender schedule documents through e portal: 18.01.2023 to 27.01.2023. 2) Pre-Bid Meeting at EE RWS Division, Bidar. 20.01.2023 Time 11.15 AM. 3) Last date for submission of bids: 27.01.2023 Time : 17.30 PM. 4) Date & Time of Technical bid opening 30.01.2023 Time : 11.00 AM 5) Date & Time of Financial bid opening: After Technical bid Approval

For details of works and conditions, please contact this office in office hours or visit website http//eproc.karnataka.gov.in where the details are available.

DIPR/Bidar/423/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDWS&S Division Bidar.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-45/01/2022-23 **Date:19.01.2023**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e–Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-II & above (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work of **Formation of Industrial Sub Layout Including Formation of 8M Wide Road Including Asphalting, Construction of RCC Drains, Internal Water Supply at Block No.09 of EPIP Industrial Area 1st Phase, Dakshina Kannada District.**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **02.02.2023 upto 04:30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/JA/4191/2022-23

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2

Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Hebbal Division, JC Nagar Main Road, Munireddy Palya,
2nd Floor, BBMP Building, Bengaluru-560032.

No:EE/HBL/TEND/32/2022-23 Dated: 18-01-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK e-Procurement portal only)

The Executive Engineer (Hebbal) Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of Zonal Commissioner, invites tenders on Item Rate basis for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of work / Category	Estimate Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in Thousands)
1.	Engaging Silt and Tractor in Ward No 66, Radhakrishna Temple Ward for the year 2022-23 (12 months) Call-2 (General).	21.00	42000.00
2.	Engaging Silt and Tractor in Ward No 67, Sanjaynagar for the year 2022-23 (12 months) Call-2 (SC).	21.00	21000.00
3.	Engaging Silt and Tractor in Ward No 68, Vishwanatha Nagenahalli for the year 2022-23 (12 months) Call-2 (SC).	21.00	21000.00
4.	Engaging Silt and Tractor in Ward No 70, Hebbala for the year 2022-23 (12 months) Call-2 (General).	21.00	42000.00
5.	Engaging Silt and Tractor in Ward No 71, Chamundinagar for the year 2022-23 (12 months) Call-2 (General).	21.00	42000.00
6.	Engaging Silt and Tractor in Ward No. 73, JC Nagar for the year 2022-23 (12 months) Call-2 (General).	21.00	42000.00

Calendar of Events: 1. Tender Documents can be downloaded from E-Portal on **20-01-2023, 4:00 p.m. 2.** Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is **27-01-2023 upto 4:00 p.m.3.** Date of Opening of Financial Proposals is **30-01-2023 after 4:30 p.m.** Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days and **website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, BBMP.

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Green Car Award 2023 by ICOTY

Kia Carens, Winner
Indian Car Of The Year 2023

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INNOCEAN-009/23

INBRIEF

Trains to be regulated on January 20, 21, 23, and 25

The following trains will be regulated due to line blocks for engineering work at Holenarsipur yard. According to a release from South Western Railway, the trains that will be regulated are: Train No. 16225 Mysuru-Shivamogga Town Express starting from Mysuru on January 20, 21, 23, and 25 will be regulated for 90 minutes enroute. Similarly, Train No. 16221 Talguppa-Mysuru Kuvempu Express starting from Talguppa on January 20, 21, 23, and 25 will be regulated for 30 minutes enroute.

Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (January 20, Friday), the following explainer is available:

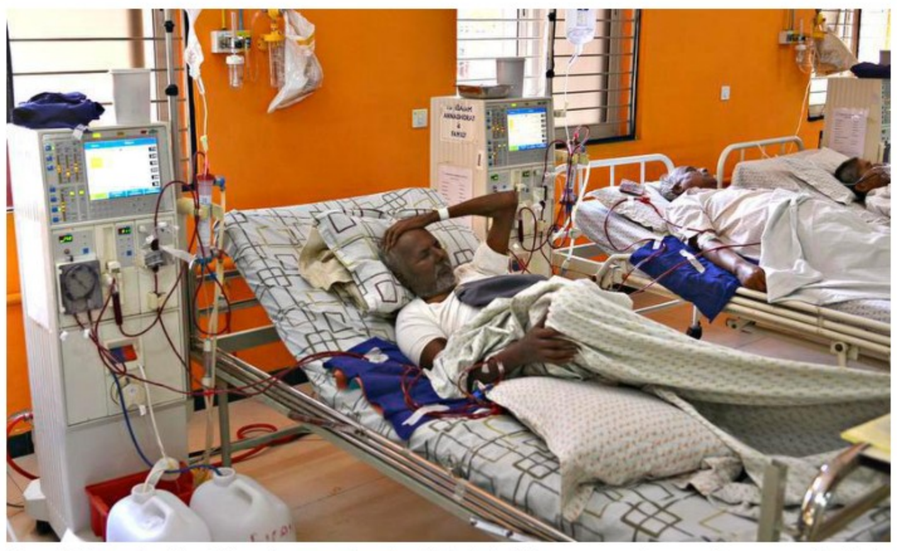
- The political flux in Pakistan
bit.ly/politicalfluxpakistan

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Foundation complains to Human Rights Commission on absence of nephrologists in govt. dialysis centres

Dialysis in at least 145 of the 167 centres in Karnataka is being done without a prescription by nephrologists

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU



Over 4,000 renal patients have been undergoing dialysis in 167 government-run centres across the State since March 2017. FILE PHOTO

In violation of set guidelines, a majority of the State-run dialysis units operating under the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme (PMNDP) in Karnataka are functioning without a nephrologist. Dialysis in at least 145 of the 167 centres in Karnataka is being done without a dialysis prescription by nephrologists.

Alleging that it amounts to denial of Right to Life and is also human rights' violation, the Kidney Warriors Foundation has filed a complaint with the Karnataka Medical Council (KMC) and State Human Rights Commission. The foundation is a large network of kidney patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and social workers.

Vasundhara Raghavan, founder and CEO of Kidney Warriors Foundation, said dialysis cannot be started in any centre by the technician without a prescription by a nephrologist. "It is shocking that many centres are functioning without a nephrologist. By managing the show through just dialysis technicians in PMNDP, the State and the private agency running these centres are putting the lives of many dialysis patients under risk. Patients are silently suffering from infections and illnesses. This amounts to denial of Right to Life and is a human rights' violation," she told *The Hindu*.

Over 4,000 renal patients have been undergoing dialysis in 167 government-run centres across the State since March 2017, when the dialysis scheme was awarded to BRS Health & Research Institute to manage. In July 2021, when this service provider intimated the State government that it would no longer be able to continue with the services, the scheme was managed by the Health Department under National Health Mission (NHM) from August 2021 till January 10, 2022. Subsequently, the contract of the scheme was then awarded to Kolkata-based ESKAG Sanjeevini Pvt. Ltd. Although the company's contract ended in March, the State has floated new tenders only now.

The Hindu had earlier highlighted the plight of dialysis patients due to faulty machines and dysfunctional Medical Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants. The plants in many centres have a high Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) value, which is above the permissible limits and hence unfit for dialysis. The water treatment system is a critical factor for dialysis. Ultra pure water from the RO plant that enters the hemodialysis machine is used to mix the dialysate for dialysis.

"As against the recommended four-hour dialysis session, patients are forced to undergo a 2-3 hour session. This is leading to premature death of patients. If dialysis is done without supervision and a prescription specific to the individual's health condition, it will lead to comorbidities - cardiac arrest, stroke, and other conditions. It can also result in death. As the machine is not properly serviced and same dialysis treatment is applied to all patients, dialysis patients suffer from improper and insufficient dialysis," stated the complaint.

The foundation has demanded action against the private agency and government officials who have committed or allowed the offence to be perpetrated for this medical negligence.

KSRTC to start 'Business Intelligence Dashboard' to bring transparency

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

To bring transparency and efficiency among employees, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) will start a 'Business Intelligence Dashboard' which will give information on bus schedules, regularity, traffic revenue, off road vehicles and breakdown details on a daily basis, which can be viewed by passengers also.

According to KSRTC officials, a business intelligence dashboard is a data visualisation and analysis tool developed by Karnataka government's Centre for Smart Governance (CSG) which displays on screen the status of the corporation's key performance indicators and other important metrics and data points for the KSRTC and its depots.

The KSRTC is also planning to expand its parcel and cargo business and has started to map various clusters where the corporation can earn revenue. FILE PHOTO

"People can check depot and division wise bus details and this system will help the KSRTC employees to have transparency and efficiency. The dashboard software will have a customisable interface where even the details of the depot-wise accident details and also passengers use will be updated on the dashboard," a senior KSRTC official said.

Status of corporation

On a pilot basis, the business intelligence dashboard is being used by the corporation internally. The KSRTC also wants to publish the dashboard to the general public so that they can also know the status of the corporation.

"Each depot manager of the KSRTC has to update all the status of their respective depots and enter into the data system, which will be available to all the officials. This will help the KSRTC to keep track of all the buses and the employees," the official added.

Plans for expansion

Meanwhile, the KSRTC is planning to expand its parcel and cargo business and has started to map various clusters where the corporation can earn revenue.

Officials said that the corporation has started to map clusters like agricultural products, textile, and automobile industry. In 2021, the cash-strapped KSRTC started Namma Cargo courier and parcel business in an attempt to boost falling revenues.

State firm flies India's first drone in underground mines

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru-based technology-driven mining services company, Squadrone, has become the first Indian firm to fly autonomous drones in underground mines in the country. Squadrone successfully completed a Proof of Concept at Hindustan Zinc Ltd.'s (Vedanta) underground mines in Udaipur.

The company said the success of this project had proved that the application of drone-based Hovermap LiDAR technology would bring about a huge transformation in the way underground mines are worked in India and would make a huge difference in the life of every miner in India with enhanced safety, productivity, and higher efficiency.

"This is a historic moment for us, as we become the first company in India to fly autonomous drones in underground mines in the country. This technology can be used to improve safety and reduce risks, resulting in more efficient, cost-effective, and smart mining operations," said Cyriac Joseph, founder and CEO, Squadrone Infra and Mining Pvt. Ltd. He added that the firm plans to work with various other mining and tunnelling companies to design and implement innovative applications of this technology.

Squadrone successfully completed a Proof of Concept at Hindustan Zinc Ltd.'s (Vedanta) underground mines in Udaipur. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Lokayukta traps Bescom official while taking bribe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lokayukta sleuths on Thursday trapped a superintendent engineer of the Bangalore Electricity Supply company (Bescom), Bengaluru rural circle, while allegedly accepting a bribe from an electrical contractor for an official favour.

The accused officer, identified as H.V. Krishnaprasad, demanded ₹2 lakh from contractor Sharanappa to sanction 419 kW power connection to a residential complex. Unable to pay the bribe, Sharanappa approached the Lokayukta seeking help. Based on the complaint, a team, supervised by ADGP Pashanth Kumar Thakur, trapped Krishnaprasad red-handed while accepting ₹1.5 lakh from Sharanappa.

The accused has been arrested under Prevention and Corruption Act and taken into custody for further investigation.

'Heritage panel nod crucial for works on Chamundi Hills'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The citizens' committee to save Chamundi Hills has resolved to press for clearance from the heritage committee before the implementation of development works at the hill top under Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)

The PRASHAD scheme is a Union government project and infrastructure works worth ₹49.5 crore will be taken up ostensibly for providing amenities to the tourists. The details of the scheme remain sketchy and has drawn the ire of the citizens, activists and NGOs in the absence of any credible information.

The Chamundi Betta Ulisi Horata Samiti, which is an umbrella organisation of various NGOs and activist citizens, met here on Thursday and resolved to meet the Deputy Commissioner next week and apprise him of their apprehensions about the projects.

Given the heritage and spiritual importance of Chamundi Hills, the subject should be placed before the district heritage conservation committee and secure its approval as in case of the repair of a government school atop the hill, said .N.S.Rangaraju of INTACH Mysuru and member of the heritage committee.

U.N. Ravikumar, a proponent of alternative technologies and conservationist, said given the environmental sensitivity of Chamundi Hills the focus should be on its conservation and wanted the government to take up projects that are not inimical to the local ecology besides encouraging use of public transport and banning the plying of private vehicles.

Solidarity is the most beautiful human emotion, says Che Guevara's daughter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Solidarity is the most beautiful human emotion which is much needed in a world ravaged by the pandemic, said Aleida Guevera, paediatrician and daughter of Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara.

She was speaking after being felicitated by a host of progressive organisations in the city on Thursday. Her daughter and economist Estefania Guevera was also felicitated.

"Solidarity comes out of learning and understanding each other's cultures which helps us find common objectives to fight to create a better world," she said. Coming down heavily on sanctions imposed by the United States of America on Cuba, even refusing to sell medicines, she said Cuba did not have syringes to provide COVID-19 vaccine to the people.

"We appealed to the Cuban solidarity across the world and help came pouring in. Now, we have developed an intra-nasal vaccine that doesn't need syringes," she said. Cuba is in talks with Kerala to develop Ayurvedic medicine as an alternative to allopathic medicine which was in short supply in Cuba, she said. She added that many plants grown in Kerala can be easily grown in Cuba too.. "Solidarity finally helps us create a better world, and try to alleviate the sufferings of our people everywhere in the world," she said.

Members of The Solidarity Committee felicitating Alieda Guevara, daughter of Che Guevara, Estefania Guevera, economist and granddaughter of Che, at Kondajji Basappa Hall in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Dr. Aleida corrected several anecdotes about Che Guevara recounted at the event. "Once I was at a conference at a university in Spain where I saw a line about revolution written on the toilet's wall and appreciated it at the event. A year later I saw it attributed to my father. We need to be careful about any kind of misinformation that is one of the biggest issues plaguing the world today," she said.

'Great romantic'

Correcting an earlier speaker, who said Che Guevara often described himself as "a rebel who couldn't become a poet", Dr. Aleida said contrary to popular perception her father did write poetry.

"But he was very critical of his poetry and never read it in public or published them. But he read them to my mother in the night," she said, describing her father as a "great romantic."

She said her father believed that one has to be a romantic to be revolutionary and that all revolutionaries must first know how to love.

Two held for stealing radio units from cell phone towers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kengeri police have arrested two people and recovered 14 remote radio unit boxes worth ₹11 lakh that they had allegedly stolen from mobile phone towers in and around the city. The accused have been identified as Deepak Rao Pawar, 22, of Challaghatta in Kengeri, and John Pinto, 20, of Kumbalagod.

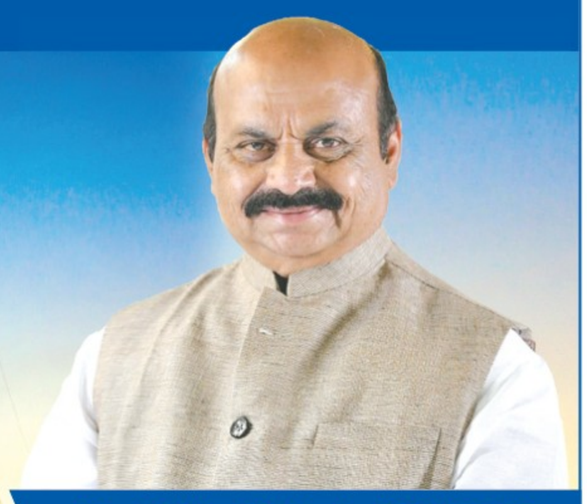
According to the police, the accused used to identify mobile phone towers in the area and steal the radio units.

Due to this, many mobile towers were unable to transmit signals, causing huge technical issues to the service providers.

The police recovered the units from their house.

ಇಂಧನ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ನರೇಂದ್ರ ಮೋದಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಪ್ರಧಾನಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು



ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಎಸ್. ಬೊಮ್ಮಾಯಿ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು

ಬದ್ಧತೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯ, ಭರವಸೆಯ ಬೆಳಕು

2327 ಕಿಲೋ ಮೀಟರ್ ಹೊಸ ಪ್ರಸರಣ ಮಾರ್ಗ
ಪ್ರಸರಣ ಜಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 6123 ಎಂವಿಎ ಸೇರ್ಪಡೆ.
50 ಹೊಸ ಉಪಕೇಂದ್ರ
294 ಉಪಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳ ಉನ್ನತೀಕರಣ

ರಾಜ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸವರಾಜ ಎಸ್. ಬೊಮ್ಮಾಯಿ ಅವರ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಬಿಜೆಪಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಅಧಿಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಬಂದ ನಂತರ
ಇಂಧನ ಸಚಿವ ಶ್ರೀ ವಿ. ಸುನಿಲ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಸಾರಥ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪ್ರಸರಣ ರಂಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಿಂದೆಂದೂ ಕಾಣದ ಕ್ರಾಂತಿ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಪ್ರಸರಣ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ ಮತ್ತು ಚಾಮುಂಡೇಶ್ವರಿ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಸರಬರಾಜು ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕ.ವಿ.ಪ್ರ.ನಿ.ನಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಚಾ.ವಿ.ಸ.ನಿ.ನಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಮೈಸೂರು, ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ,
ಹಾಸನ ಮತ್ತು ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು

ಶಂಕುಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನಾ ಸಮಾರಂಭ

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.01.2023, ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ । ಸಮಯ: ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆ
ಸ್ಥಳ: ಮಹಾರಾಜ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಮೈದಾನ, ಕೃಷ್ಣರಾಜ ಬುಲೆವಾರ್ಡ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು

ಕ.ವಿ.ಪ್ರ.ನಿ.ನಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ

- 66/11ಕೆ.ವಿ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉಪ–ಕೇಂದ್ರ
- ಚಾಮಲಪುರ (ಬಿ.ಸಿ. ಹಳ್ಳಿ), ಟಿ. ನರಸೀಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು

ಚಾ.ವಿ.ಸ.ನಿ.ನಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಉದ್ಘಾಟನೆ

- ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ನಗರ
- ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಮದ್ದೂರು
- ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ
- ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ರಾಮಕೃಷ್ಣ ನಗರ, ಮೈಸೂರು
- ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೆರಗೋಡು, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
- ನಗರ ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
- ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಜಯಪುರ
- ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಗದ್ದಿಗೆ
- ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಬಿ.ಮಟ್ಟಿಕೆರೆ
- ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಹನಗೋಡು
- ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಆಲನಹಳ್ಳಿ
- ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಬಸರಾಳು
- ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಮಳವಳ್ಳಿ

ಕ.ವಿ.ಪ್ರ.ನಿ.ನಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಶಂಕುಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ

- 66/11ಕೆ.ವಿ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉಪ–ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ, ವರಕೋಡು (ವರುಣ), ಮೈಸೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು
- 66/11ಕೆ.ವಿ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉಪ–ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ, ಉದ್ಬೂರು (ಡಿ.ಸಾಲುಂಡಿ), ಮೈಸೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು
- 66/11ಕೆ.ವಿ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉಪ–ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ, ರತ್ನಪುರಿ, ಹಣಸೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು
- 66/11ಕೆ.ವಿ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉಪ–ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ, ಮಾರಗೌಡನಹಳ್ಳಿ (ಮಾವತ್ತೂರು), ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ನಗರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು
- 66/11ಕೆ.ವಿ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉಪ–ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ, ಸುಂಕಾತೊಣ್ಣೂರು (ಹಳೇಬೀಡು), ಪಾಂಡವಪುರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು
- 66/11ಕೆ.ವಿ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉಪ–ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ, ಈಚಲು ಗುಡ್ಡಕಾವಲ್, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು
- 66/11ಕೆ.ವಿ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉಪ–ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ, ಬೀರುವಳ್ಳಿ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ಪೇಟೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು
- 66/11ಕೆ.ವಿ, ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಉಪ–ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ, ಧನಗೂರು, ಮಳವಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು

ಚಾ.ವಿ.ಸ.ನಿ.ನಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಶಂಕುಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ

- ವಿಭಾಗೀಯ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್. ಪೇಟೆ
- ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಹೆಚ್.ಡಿ. ಕೋಟೆ
- ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಪಿರಿಯಾಪಟ್ಟಣ
- ಉಪ–ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಗುಂಡ್ಲುಪೇಟೆ
- ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಹೆಚ್.ಡಿ. ಕೋಟೆ
- ಶಾಖಾ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕಣಕಟ್ಟೆ

- ಬೆಳಕು – ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ರಹಿತ ಮನೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ
- 24 ಗಂಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ 1.37 ಲಕ್ಷ ಟಿಸಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ
- ಅಮೃತ ಜ್ಯೋತಿ – ಎಸ್ ಸಿ, ಎಸ್ ಟಿ ಕುಟುಂಬಕ್ಕೆ 75 ಯುನಿಟ್ ಉಚಿತ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್
- ಕೆಪಿಟಿಸಿಎಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ನೇಮಕಾತಿ – 1500 ಜನರಿಗೆ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ
- 208 ಟ್ರಾನ್ಸ್‌ಫಾರ್ಮರ್ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ
- 1190 ಇವಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಗುರಿ

ಮಾನ್ಯ ಇಂಧನ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಸಚಿವರಾದ
ಶ್ರೀ ವಿ. ಸುನಿಲ್ ಕುಮಾರ್ ಅವರು
ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲ್ಗೊಂಡಿರುವುದು.

ಶ್ರೀ ಜಿ. ಕುಮಾರ ನಾಯಕ್, ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ.
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಪರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು
ಇಂಧನ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಡಾ॥ ಎನ್. ಮಂಜುಳ, ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ.
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಕವಿಪ್ರನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಜಯವಿಭವ ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ.
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಚಾವಿಸನಿನಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು

"ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಮಾನವರು ಸ್ವತಂತ್ರರಾಗಿಯೇ ಜನಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಘನತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಹಕ್ಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸಮಾನರಾಗಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ವಿವೇಕ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂತಃಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದವರಾದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅವರು ಪರಸ್ಪರ ಸಹೋದರ ಭಾವದಿಂದ ವರ್ತಿಸಬೇಕು." – ಇದು ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯನ ಸಂವಿಧಾನಬದ್ಧ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ.

Elevated Namma Metro line low on safety standards

The recent accident where a reinforcement structure collapsed killing a mother and her toddler-son has brought to focus the lack of adherence to standard operating protocols. BMRCL says based on suggestions made in the investigation report, safety protocols would be revised so that such incidents do not repeat

Suchith Kidiyoor
BENGALURU

Absence of pedestrian paths, garbage dumped near work sites, difficulty in accessing skywalks, poorly maintained streets, absence of signage – these are just some of the inconveniences that road users near Namma Metro work sites are putting up with.

The recent accident near HBR Layout in East Bengaluru, where a reinforcement structure collapsed on a moving bike killing a mother and her toddler-son, has exposed yet again poor safety standards of the metro project.

Under fire, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) suspended the construction of metro pillars that are 12 metres in height on the ORR-Airport line (Central Silk Board to Kempegowda International Airport) and other corridors.

After the incident, the High Court of Karnataka initiated suo motu a PIL petition to examine the safety measures put in place for the project. Metro officials claim that the recent incident was the first such while executing the project in which deaths of civilians were reported. In the past, there were several incidents of construction workers getting killed at metro work sites or road users getting injured.

For a reality check on whether interests of motorists and pedestrians are being protected, *The Hindu* visited the ORR-Airport line (under phase II A & B) and Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara (phase II) corridors.

Over 2,500 pillars

On the ORR-Airport stretch (Blue Line), the BMRCL is building a 55 km line from Central Silk Board to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) via K.R. Puram, Nagawara and Hebbal. From Silk Board to Hebbal, the metro alignment is on the median of the busy Outer Ring Road by occupying 9 metres of the road. From Hebbal to Trumpet, the elevated line goes on the service road of the National Highway. The BMRCL is constructing more than 2,500 pillars on the 55 km stretch to link the city with the KIA.

Saurav Kumar, a regular commuter from Hebbal to Bellandur, said, "I usually go on bike to my work place. After the recent incident, it is very scary to go near the metro worksite. BMRCL should ensure that such incidents do not repeat."

Residents living near the construction sites are demanding that roads and pavements should be maintained in good condition. Vijaya Prakash, a resident of Kasturinagar, said, "After white topping of the ORR, travelling on main roads became easier. But after some time, BMRCL began construction work. As the main roads have become narrower, motorists are taking the service roads and the roads within the residential areas. Dust and difficulty in accessing the skywalk are some other issues people are facing."

From Hebbal and Central Silk Board, more than 10 skywalks have come in the way of the metro lines at places like Manyata Tech Park, Kalyan Nagar, Babusapalya, Kasturinagar, Kadubeesnahalli, Bellanadur and other areas. Some of the skywalks are likely to be dismantled to build the elevated corridor.

Tired of 'adjust maadi' culture

Tired of the long wait for Namma Metro, Srilakshmi, a resident of Gottigere, said, "It has been more than five years. There is no sign of the metro work on Bannerghatta Road getting over. At many places, construction materials are dumped on the roadside, and people are forced to walk on the busy road. Some of the pillars are covered with nets. I hope nothing falls on the motorists. The mindset of authorities should change. They expect citizens to adjust to prolonged delays."

The elevated line on Bannerghatta Road from Kalena Agrahara to Swagath Road Cross has been delayed for years. In 2021, the BMRCL terminated the contract awarded to the previous contractor after the company failed to deliver the work due to financial issues. Later, another contractor was chosen to execute the work. People using Bannerghatta Road have been facing traffic snarls.

Between Hebbal and Trumpet on the Airport Road, the metro line is being constructed on the service road. SUCHITH KIDIYOOR

The metro pillars, which are over 12 meters, near HRBR Layout constructed before the recent accident There are 19 such pillars on that stretch. SUCHITH KIDIYOOR

The metro work at Tannery Road. Shopkeepers and motorists want roads maintained in good condition. SUDHAKARA JAIN

After work began on ORR, access to skywalks has become a challenge for pedestrians. SUCHITH KIDIYOOR

Metro work under way on Bannerghatta Road between Jayadeva and Dairy Circle. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The ongoing metro work near Jayadeva hospital in Bengaluru. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Near Kalena Agrahara, construction materials are dumped on the roadside inconveniencing the pedestrians. SUCHITH KIDIYOOR

Metro work in progress on Bannerghatta Road near Masjid-e-Bilal in Bengaluru. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Bus priority lanes that were built over three years ago have almost disappered. Drivers have been asked to take service road instead of going on main roads on ORR in Belandur. SUCHITH KIDIYOOR

GRAPHICS: SHARATH RAM

> In our system, precautions that need to be taken while executing mega projects like Metro have not been prioritised. It is not about safety of only civilians, safety of construction workers are also at stake.
>
> **CHANDRA KISHEN J.M.**
> IISc

A portion of the reinforcement structure for a pillar at the Namma Metro site near HBR Layout that collapsed killing a mother and her son recently. K. MURALI KUMAR

Safety of civilians, workers

Chandra Kishen J.M. from Civil Engineering Department of Indian Institute of Science, who is investigating the recent accident, said, "While giving the contract, the safety precautions are explained to the contractor. Every activity on the work site, has a standard operating procedure. In our system, precautions that need to be taken while executing mega projects like Metro have not been prioritised. It is not about safety of only civilians, safety of construction workers are also at stake."

On the progress of the investigation, Mr. Kishen said, "The temporary support for the huge structure was not sufficient. It also appears that it took a long time for putting up shutters around the pillar. In a few days, we will submit the report to the BMRCL."

Changes in SoPs

BMRCL Managing Director Anjum Parwez said in the backdrop of the recent incident, the BMRCL will bring revised SoPs and safety protocols.

"After the unfortunate incident, we have halted the construction of metro pillars that are over 12 metres tall not only on ORR-Airport line, but also on other locations. For the elevated corridor, there will be a metro pillar after every 20 odd metres. We are constructing pillars of 8 to 23 metres height, since there are many flyovers and underpasses.

"As the viaduct goes above these structures, high metro pillars are needed. On the Airport line, more than 800 pillars will be built which are more than 9 to 10 metres high."

He said, "Following the incident, we have requested the IISc to find out the reason for the accident and come out with suggestions. Based on the suggestions, SoPs and safety protocols will be revised so that such incidents do not repeat in future."

On road users' safety, he said, "We have widened the roads wherever possible. We noticed that people are dumping garbage on footpaths or near metro work sites. We have asked BBMP to initiate action. We are ensuring that barricades don't block the road. Wherever pillar works are complete, measures have been taken to remove the barricade for smooth flow of traffic."

On removal of skywalks on ORR, the official said, "If the height of the pillars on either side of the skywalks are more than the skywalks, we will not dismantle them. Once the metro stations become operational on ORR, pedestrians will be able to use the stations to cross the road.

Ahead of Shakti's show in Bengaluru, Zakir Hussain talks about how the jazz-fusion group has sustained and soared

Power Play

Anurag Tagat

Even some of the most legendary musicians turned to video calls and remote productions of their recordings during the pandemic's first two years. Now, after nearly three years apart, the tabla maestro Zakir Hussain talks about being in the same room with Shakti bandmates John McLaughlin, Shankar Mahadevan, V Selvaganesh and Ganesh Rajagopalan.

Rehearsals have been on in Bengaluru ahead of their first show on the 50th anniversary tour, which starts on January 20 in the city and heads on to Mumbai, Kolkata and New Delhi. Prior to this they were sending each other recordings for an upcoming album and speaking over Zoom. "But there was no face-to-face interaction."

So now, there is a bit of "reprogramming, rebooting and remembering" that is taking place, according to Hussain. "After an hour or two, the wheels started turning, the oiling got in there and ideas started pouring in as they used to," he adds. Shakti have dived into 12 different songs in preparation for the tour set and are figuring out how to navigate each piece.

As a band that thrives on spontaneity and flexibility, Hussain says there is faith that each band member has in the other. "There is no hesitation in being able to put an idea on the table and also no embarrassment. That's what's special about Shakti and that's why it is an immense joy and musical satisfaction to be working with this group. It is similar to how to Indian classical musicians work together."

It originally brought together McLaughlin, Hussain, violinist L Shankar, mridangam veteran Ramnad Raghavan and ghatam ace Vikku Vinayakram. Styles of music such as jazz-fusion, new age and "world music" (a term that may be on its way out but still has takers) were birthed due to the band's compositions.

Hussain recalls, "It was just the four of us playing a concert, and that was it. I had no clue what was going to happen. But John called me up and said, 'Hey, would you like to come into New York and consider forming a band together?' I had not even come up with any idea of forming a band as such."

Hussain likens the energy of the first Shakti performance to exactly the same thing they feel when they get into rehearsals or get on stage for a concert today. "We still have the same way of looking at each other, loving each other, hugging each other. Metaphorically, musically, physically... whatever you want to call it," he says. One of the things that happened along the way was the ripple effect that Shakti's music caused in the creation of Indo-fusion.

From the album (Clockwise from left) Shankar Mahadevan; file photo of Shakti members; and Ustad Zakir Hussain. MURALI KUMAR K, AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"I remember (record producer) Clive Davis asking John what we would call this music. We had no answer for that because we hadn't thought about it."

While he acknowledges that Pandit Ravi Shankar and Yehudi Menuhin were working together, theirs was a more directed approach compared to Shakti's members, who were all on the same wavelength in terms of playing and composing.

When you play for audiences in Bengaluru, you know they are going to give you their attention and the time needed to convince them that what you're doing is valid

–ZAKIR HUSSAIN

How the West was won

This period from the 1960s to the 1980s changed the way Indian classical musicians interacted with the West's artists and vice versa. From the Beatles all the way to Trilok Gurtu, everyone had something to contribute in this exchange of ideas.

Today, as Hussain notes, we are not living in the same age. "We are living in a small 16 inch or 15 inch screen called the computer. And that's where our world is, and that makes it possible for us to be able to experience, interact, communicate, and learn about all sorts of creative exercises."

Fifty years ago, Shakti were about communicating on a grander scale rather than seeking out a niche audience, according to Hussain. "It is important that we have a global communication, that we have a statement that adheres and grabs the attention of the world at large," he adds.

They have taken their music all over the world, but Bengaluru gets the honour of kick-starting Shakti's 50th anniversary India tour. Hussain recalls how it was a sleepy town when he first visited around 1963. Shakti eventually made their way to India only by the 1980s and over the years, Hussain says he has seen Bengaluru become a town that houses an "ethnic-tasting audience".

"The people who come to the concerts here are versatile in their tastes. They will go to a jazz concert today or an Indian classical concert and then go to a rock event in a club and enjoy each equally and be aware of what is being presented to them." He lauds the openness and liberal listening abilities of Bangaloreans and calls it special.

"When you come and you play for the audiences here, you know they are going to give you their attention and allow you to have the time needed to be able to convince them that what you're doing is valid. It's really very inspirational and exciting to be able to get on stage and then mix it up with them."

The JSW Group presents the Shakti 50th Anniversary India tour in partnership with HSBC. Co-sponsored by The Hindu Group, 100 Pipers Glassware, 94.3 Radio One. Promoted & Produced by Hyperlink Brand Solutions and Paytm Insider.

Winners behind bars

On the night before 30BestBarsIndia announced its list, nominees partied hard in Delhi, in a joyful chaos of cocktails and reunions.

Three cheers (Left) Winning team Sidecar that bagged the title for the best bar in the country. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shonali Muthalaly
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At Side Car, the team from Pune's Cobbler & Crew poured drinks beside Hong Kong-based author Holly Graham and Shatbhi Basu, one of India's first women bartenders. Lair, which was also heaving with industry insiders, hosted a bar takeover, by Mumbai's Bombay Canteen and Goa's Hideaway.

Both spaces were representative of how India's cocktail culture has surged forward over the past few years especially, thanks to the industry being both highly competitive as well as generously collaborative, despite the ravages of the pandemic and its associated lockdowns.

At the award show, held at Gurgaon's Le Meridien, South Delhi's popular Sidecar was declared the country's best bar in the 2022 ranking of 30BestBarsIndia, prompting loud cheers and whistles.

At number two was another familiar name, Copitas from Bengaluru's Four Seasons Hotel, followed by Delhi's HOME, Lair, and Mumbai's Bombay Canteen. While the fiercely contested top 10 positions did not throw up any major surprises, the list did indicate some interesting new trends, including high quality cocktail programmes beyond Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. Pune swept up a significant number of awards, including the People's Choice Award, which was given to Elephant and Co.

30BestBarsIndia's 2022 ranking is based on a jury poll of about 250 people who judge the bars on service, design, ambience and menus.

With Indian bars now offering locally rooted beverage menus, the scene is also becoming more creative

Co-founded in 2019 by Vikram Achanta and Radhakrishnan Nair, it aims to raise awareness on India's rapidly growing bar scene on both national and international platforms.

Explaining how the list was built from about 500 nominations, Radhakrishnan says they have worked on getting a better geographic representation every year, with creative new spaces launching in places like Chandigarh, Lucknow, Jaipur, Guwahati.

Discussing how well-travelled Indian consumers are now creating a demand for high quality bars with modern, balanced cocktails, Vikram says he expects to see more progressive restaurateurs launch thoughtfully designed spaces this year.

With Indian bars now offering locally rooted beverage menus, the scene is also becoming more creative and individual. "We notice people using more seasonal and local ingredients, especially the bars in smaller cities," says Vikram.

However, in a highly stressful, ambitiously driven industry, perhaps the best aspect these awards highlighted was the camaraderie between the industry's best and brightest, right from old school Joseph in Goa to Delhi's iconic speakeasy, PCO, and Mumbai's three-decade-old Toto's Garage, which took home the Timeless Bar Award.

30BestBarsIndia's award night took place on January 17 at Le Meridien, Gurgaon.

A touch of glass The Conservatory can host talks, performances and more. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bengaluru's latest event space that plays host to unique food popups is also an ode to Lalbagh Botanical Garden

Pastries in the glass house

Priyadarshini Paitandy
priyadarshini.p@thehindu.co.in

From simple birthday celebrations decades ago to stylish food popups in recent months, the wizened 100-year-old rain tree outside The Conservatory has witnessed a flurry of events. With its stout, twisting branches and a head full of green leaves, it has been an integral part of this space. "We really wanted to include the tree," says Akhila Srinivas, who started The Courtyard, a 6,000 square feet event space, in 2018. The Conservatory on the second floor is the latest addition that was added last June.

The Conservatory looks like a glass house. "We are right up the road from Lalbagh which has a very beautiful glass house modelled after the Crystal Palace in London. It's a huge piece of horticulture that Bangaloreans don't seem to care much about. So, our place is an ode to horticulture and our way of paying homage to Lalbagh," says Akhila, an architect and urban designer. This is her grandmother's house from the 1940s. The garden has been converted into a multi-tiered event space. The old house still remains and is used as an office and store.

The idea behind the Courtyard is to be a public space that gives importance to high quality arts and culture. A place that gives a cultural experience.

So, the ground and first floor give space to artistes for arts, talks and performances, while the top floor is to shine light on chefs and makers of food.

"Food and what stories you tell through them is quite a big narrative now," she adds. Events revolving around food are popular too with six to eight taking place in a month. The space can hold around 30 people for a seated event, otherwise it can accommodate up to 60.

The last few months have proved that there is a penchant for new experiences for food.

Guests are curious and more invested in experimenting and understanding what goes into creating a dish. "They want to watch the chef work and serve them right there." Some of the events are curated by the in-house team, some are done by chefs or other food enthusiasts. It is often booked for private events too.

At the heart, it is about building a community, says Akhila, adding that it has been heartwarming to see how people have made this space their home away from home.

STEPOUT

Create a splash

The Natural Color Festival, is a fest that will use colours made from plant, animal, and mineral sources, said to be non-toxic and biodegradable.
It is organised in collaboration with ColorAshram.
At Blr Creative Circus on January 20 and 21 from 10am to 5pm. Entry fee is ₹99. Visit BookMyShow to register.

Celebrating movement

The 18th edition of the Drishti National Dance Festival 2023 has been organised by dancer Anuradha Vikranth to celebrate her teacher Padma Subramanyam's 80th birthday.
The theme of the festival is Samarpan and will feature dancers such as Shobana, Priyadarshini Govind, and Anuradha Vikranth to name a few.
At Chowdiah Memorial Hall, January 21, 5.30pm.Call 9844191888/9845555422 for details.

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Modi accuses previous regimes of caste- and religion-based politics

He says there are 'double benefits from double-engine government'; foundation stone laid for various projects at Kodekal in Yadgir district

The Hindu Bureau
KODEKAL (YADGIR DISTRICT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday claimed that a "double-engine government meant double benefits". He was speaking after laying the foundation stone for various projects at Kodekal in Yadgir district.

The Prime Minister accused the previous governments of indulging in vote-bank politics based on caste and religion and said that his government was focusing on development works.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, and other dignitaries during the launch of development projects at Kodekal in Yadgir district on Thursday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the following works worth ₹10,864 crore

- Foundation stone for the first and second phases of Surat-Chennai greenfield express corridor at a cost of **₹4,110 crore**
- Multi-village drinking water project under Jal Jeevan Mission at a cost of **₹2,054 crore**
- Renovation, extension, and modernisation of Narayanpur Left Branch Canal (NLBC) at a cost of **₹3,619 crore**

Inaugurated

A Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System system, which has been developed for the first time in the country, to cover the NLBC irrigation network at a cost of **₹1,050 crore**

Significance of visit

Mr. Modi's visit on Thursday is the second in a month to North Karnataka. His visit to the two districts of the Kalyana Karnataka, Yadgir and Kalaburagi, to highlight the BJP government's development projects and schemes is significant as Congress president M. Mallikarjun Kharge hails from here. The BJP hopes to improve its tally here, where the Congress historically has a strong presence.

Mr. Modi said previous governments had neglected Yadgir and Raichur, among the most backward districts. When the NDA government came to power, these two districts were selected as inspirational districts among 112 districts in India. Consequently, the ratio of development in infrastructure, health, and education sectors had increased, he said.

"Employment opportunities will be increased after Chennai-Surat express corridor, which passes through the district, and industrial areas at Kadechur-Badiyal are developed. Permission to establish pharmaceutical cluster has already been given," he said.

He stressed on "double-engine government" throughout his speech and said that as the Centre and State had joined hands, several developments had taken place. Citing one example of the "double-engine government", he said under the Prime Minister's Kisan Samman project, farmers were getting ₹10,000, of which ₹6,000 came from the Centre and ₹4,000 from the State. Lauding the State government for its effective handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, he said that the government had not stopped implementing projects, especially irrigation projects such as Upper Krishna and Upper Bhadra, providing irrigation to drylands.

He said that under the Jal Jivan Mission, aimed at providing potable drinking water to all rural households through taps, eight crore families had been supplied tap water so far. The figure was just 3.5 crore when the project was first implemented, he said.

The Prime Minister, who began his speech in Kannada, spoke for 29 minutes. Among other things, he cited the contribution of Surpur king Raja Venkatappa Nayak. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Union Minister Bhagwant Khuba, and Minister Govind Karjol were among those present at the event.

Toor farmers disappointed

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Red gram (toor) growers from Kalaburagi, Bidar, and Yadgir, who have lost their crops on vast tracts of land owing to wilt disease, were disappointed on Thursday as they had expected that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would announce some relief.

However, Mr. Modi did not speak about the issue. As per estimation, standing red gram crop on around 70,000 hectares of land has been destroyed owing to the wilt disease.

The growers have been protesting for the last two months demanding a special package for compensating the affected farmers.

We cooked food, BJP is just serving it: Ex-CM

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

"We cooked food and they (the BJP) are serving it. But now they are lying that they themselves prepared the food," the former Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Siddaramaiah said on Thursday, commenting on the Prime Minister's programme of distribution to record of rights to tanda dwellers.

He told presspersons in Hubballi that it was the Congress that initiated and did all the work pertaining to the issue of records of rights to tanda dwellers, but now the BJP was claiming credit for it.

"The State BJP leaders have invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for distribution of record of rights by lying to him. They are projecting as if they framed the law and converted the tandas into revenue villages," he said.

Amendment

"Kagodu Thimmappa who was Revenue Minister in our government had brought an amendment to the Act on revenue villages and Forests Act. Even before that, under the chairmanship of Narasimhaiah, I had constituted a committee to study the conversion of tandas and 'hatti' (of Kurubas and Nayakas) into revenue villages. Subsequently, Hera Naik was appointed as the nodal officer. Because of all these steps, now the tanda dwellers are getting the record of rights now," he said. He added that the Congress government had started Guru Sevalal Jayanti, developed his birthplace, set up development corporation and gave grants.

PM launches distribution of land rights certificates

The Hindu Bureau
MALKHED (KALABURAGI DISTRICT)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi being blessed by a Lambani woman at a public meeting at Malkhed on Thursday.
ARUN KULKARNI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the State government's ambitious programme of upgrading tandas, hattis, and palyas (human settlements or hamlets of the oppressed Banjara community) into revenue villages by distributing land rights documents to the dwellers at a public meeting on the outskirts of Malkhed in Kalaburagi district on Thursday.

The meeting was organised by the State government to distribute a record 52,072 land titles to the beneficiaries from 342 tandas in five districts of Bidar, Kalaburagi, Yadgir, Raichur, and Vijayapura. Mr. Modi symbolically handed over the title certificates to five families from Kalaburagi district – three from Chincholi taluk and one each from Kamalapur and Sedam taluk – to launch the programme.

"Banjara [Lambani] community has suffered a lot of inconveniences. Now, the time has come for them to lead their lives with dignity. The Karnataka government has taken a very important decision to upgrade over 3,000 tandas and other settlements into revenue villages. I would like to congratulate Mr. Bommai and his team for this," Mr. Modi said. He obliquely attacked the Congress for seeing people in these settlements as "vote bank" and not addressing their ownership issues.

"The proposal [for upgrading] was made in 1993, three decades ago. The party which ruled the State for a majority of the period after that concentrated on developing a vote bank. It never thought of making the lives of these people better. People struggled hard to get their rights and underwent many hardships. Now, the BJP government has changed that. I would like to tell you, the Banjara mothers, not to worry anymore as one of your sons is in Delhi," Mr. Modi said.

"Since the families have now got ownership titles, getting loans from banks will be easier. Under the Svamitva Yojna, the Union government is issuing property cards to people in rural areas based on their properties," he said.

Record

At the request of the district administration, a team from the World Book of Records was present at the meeting and recorded the distribution of titles, which is claimed to be the highest number of such records to be given in one go.

INBRIEF

Congress opposes shifting of UGC branch office to Delhi

Congress leader Siddaramaiah on Thursday alleged that every time Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah visit Karnataka, the people of the State are the losers and this time the University Grants Commission's branch office has been shifted from Bengaluru to Delhi.

Mr. Modi was in Kalaburagi on Thursday for the inauguration of various development works. In a press statement, the former Chief Minister said that the Union government had shifted the UGC's branch office from Bengaluru to Delhi, forcing college students, lecturers, and staff of universities in the State to run to Delhi even for minor issues.

Mr. Siddaramaiah hit out at Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Higher Education Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan for not even registering a protest against the shifting of the UGC's branch office from Bengaluru. He lashed out at the Centre for snatching the rights of Kannadigas and subjecting the people to hardships. "This is the gift from Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah and it is sad that nobody in the BJP government has the courage to speak out at this injustice," he said.

Annamalai: Tejasvi Surya did not pull emergency exit door

K. Annamalai, Tamil Nadu BJP State president, has said BJP MP Tejasvi Surya did not pull the emergency exit door of a flight, he had only placed his hand on it as there was no hand-rest in his seat.

Speaking to presspersons in Chikkamagaluru on Thursday, Mr. Annamalai said he was also travelling with Mr. Surya in the flight on the day (December 10, 2022).

"It was an ATR-72 aircraft and the emergency exit door is located in the front. As there was no hand-rest for his seat, Mr. Surya placed his hand on the door. He noticed gaps in the door beading and showed it to me. I called up the air hostess. She informed the pilot."

Mr. Annamalai said "This happened when the passengers were still boarding the flight. The pilot also checked the door. As part of the procedure, all passengers were asked to get down. The door was fixed properly."

He said the MP did not apologise to the IndiGo airlines, as reported in the media. "He only filed the incident report form. As he holds a responsible position, he apologised to the passengers for the delay in take-off due to these procedures."

'Courts have no power to reduce minimum sentence prescribed in POCSO Act'

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The courts have no power to reduce the minimum sentence prescribed in the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act on convicting the accused for committing sexual assault on children, the High Court of Karnataka has said while enhancing lesser sentence imposed on a convict by a special court.

Settled principle

"It is settled principle of law and requires no emphasis that when a statute prescribes minimum sentence, the trial judge or the appellate judge has no discretion whatsoever to reduce the minimum sentence prescribed by the statute," the High Court made it clear.

Justice V. Srishananda passed the order while enhancing the sentence to seven years from five years imposed by a special court in Bidar in a 10-year-old case of rape of a 13-year-old girl. The prosecution had filed an appeal before the High Court challenging the 2015 judgment of the special court for POCSO cases and had sought imposition of maximum punishment on Shaik Rouf, who was found guilty by the special court.

The High Court found that the special court erred in reducing the minimum prescribed sentence of seven years under Section 4 of the POCSO Act, before it was amended by enhancing the minimum sentence with effect from 2019.

The High Court did not accept the prosecution's plea for imposing the maximum sentence but directed the special court to secure the accused to serve the additional two years of sentence if he failed to surrender before the court.

Budget meetings set to begin

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of the State Budget for 2023-24 being presented by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on February 17, pre-budget meetings with departments have been scheduled from January 23.

Mr. Bommai, who holds the Finance portfolio, will chair the meetings to be held over three days at the Vidhana Soudha. The departmental heads have been asked to make a presentation over their department's proposals and required funds to be allocated to the programmes besides the announcements of the department. Nearly 40 meetings have been planned between January 23 and 25.

Pratt & Whitney opens new India Engineering Centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

U.S. aerospace manufacturer Pratt & Whitney opened its new India Engineering Centre (IEC) in Bengaluru on Thursday. At present, the IEC has more than 50 employees while an additional 450 jobs will be filled in the next four years.

According to the aerospace manufacturer, work performed at the IEC will encompass elements such as aero, mechanical, and control systems for various products in Pratt & Whitney's broad portfolio of large and small commercial engines. It will extend across the entire product life cycle from development to field support and sustainment.

The IEC is co-located with Pratt & Whitney's India Capability Center, which was opened in 2022 to provide integrated global supply chain support, and the recently inaugurated Collins Aerospace Engineering and Global Operations Center. Geoff Hunt, senior vice-president, Engineering, Pratt & Whitney, said the work conducted by the IEC would support cutting-edge technology.

Rapid growth

"The Indian aviation market is growing at a rapid pace, and Bengaluru is a hub for that growth. The work conducted at the IEC by some of India's best and brightest minds will support cutting-edge technology that will drive the future of flight," he said.

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2 (BSWML), 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru - 560 056. Phone No: 6362975012

No. DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/15/2022-23 Date: 19.01.2023

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) SHORT TERM - TWO COVER TENDER

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

1. Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML invites tenders on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the works detailed in the table below.
2. Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka.
3. Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **16.00** hours on **03.02.2023**and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines.
4. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Estimate Cost (Amount in Lakhs)	EMD	Cost of Tender form fee (Non-Refundable) inclusive of GST
1.	Developmental Works at Surrounding villages near Chikkanagamangala Processing plant (Anekal Constituency)	500.00	Rs.1,00,000/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online/ RTGS / NEFT / OTCand the balance Rs.3,45,000/- by Bank Guarantee/FDR issued by Nationalized/ Scheduled Bank	As per e-Procurement Portal
Period of Completion: 06 Months				

1. Interested Eligible Tenderers may obtain further information from and download the tender documents from e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and the tenders are to be submitted online through the e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** only. Tenders submitted in any other manner will not be accepted. Tenderers are required to obtain Level III digital signature from designated firms (available on the e-procurement portal) and then register with the Government of Karnataka e-procurement platform and submit tenders by using their ID and digital signature.
2. Pre bid meeting will be held on **30.01.2023** at 15:00 hours in office of the CE&CGM (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru-560 026.
3. Technical Documents along with necessary information/documents must be uploaded to the e-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** as per tender document on or before 16:00 hours on **03.02.2023** and First Folder containing the Technical bid will be opened through e-portal only on **04.02.2023** after **16:30** hours at the stipulated venue, in the presence of the Tenderers or their authorized representatives who wish to attend. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the tenders as specified, the tenders will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
4. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the Tenderers of any tender updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the Tenderers. It is the Tenderers responsibility to verify the e-procurement portal for the latest information related to the tender, E-mail address of the Helpdesk is **hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com.** E-procurement portal help desk telephone numbers are: 080-22371090/22373788. The tenderer is required to ensure browser capability of the computer well in advance to the last date and time for receipt of the tenders. The employer shall not be responsible for non-accessibility of e-procurement portal due to internet connectivity issues and technical glitches.
5. Any corrigendum/addendum will be published in the E-Procurement portal only.
6. GST Shall be paid separately.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2, BSWML

DIPR/CP/4192/AAA/2022-23

INBRIEF

Man who dug hundreds of surangas in Kerala ends life

C. Kunhambu, 72, of Kundamkuzhi in Bedadka, who was well known for his skills to construct *surangas* (horizontal tunnels) through laterite hills to tap drinking water, was found dead at his home. According to the police, he was found hanging when his relatives returned to his house on Wednesday. Kunhambu had mastered the art of constructing *surangas*, a labour-intensive work using a pickaxe, which helped many meet the drinking water requirements. It is a traditional way of finding the resource in water-scarce areas without excessive exploitation of land. He is survived by wife Sharada and three children.

(Those who need assistance to prevent suicidal thoughts can contact State's health helpline 104)

Munnar freezes at –2 degrees Celsius, tourists throng hills

Mercury in Munnar touched -2 degrees Celsius on Thursday. The season's lowest temperature so far was recorded on the Letchmi estate on Thursday morning. The cold weather has been attracting tourists in droves to the hill station. Almost all the resorts and homestays in Munnar remain fully booked, according to hoteliers.

Jithesh Jose, secretary of the Idukki District Tourism Promotion Council, said the large tourist inflow to the hill station is expected to continue.

TTD to spend ₹8.16 crore on works at Jammu temple

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has accorded administrative sanction for taking up ancillary and amenities works at Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Jammu at a cost of ₹8.16 crore. With the majority of the construction work nearing completion, the TTD is now focused on allied works for the convenience of devotees.

Three killed in two fireworks accidents in Virudhunagar

Three persons are said to be in critical condition; all three have been referred to the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai as they have suffered 80% to 100% burns

The Hindu Bureau
SIVAKASI

Three workers were killed and 11 injured in two accidents at different fireworks units in Virudhunagar on Thursday.

In the first accident at Vijaya Fireworks at Sengamalapatti, G. Ravi, 60, of Tiruthangal was killed. In the second accident at Baby Fireworks in Thayilpatti, K. Muneeswari, 30, of Chathrapatti, and an unidentified male worker, were killed, Revenue Divisional Officer, Sivakasi, R.R. Viswanathan said.

Among the 10 injured in Thayilpatti, the condition of S. Karupasamy, 26, of Amirpalayam, M. Marimuthu, 54, of Sattur, and M. Rajkumar, 38, of Sivakasi, is said to be critical.

Fire and Rescue Services personnel putting out the flames at the firecracker unit in Thayilpatti, near Sattur, on Thursday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

All three have been referred to the Government Rajaji Hospital in Madurai as they have suffered 80% to 100% burns, said Sivakasi Tahsildar G. Loganathan. The other injured were identified as P. Jeyaraj, 70; Murugan, 52; Chellathai, 45; Gururamy, 60; Maheswaran, 42; Thangaraj, 49; and Pandian, 55, and have been admitted to the government hospitals in Sattur and Sivakasi.

According to police sources, chemical filling for rockets was being done when a huge explosion brought down the working shed around 3.30 p.m. Subsequently, six other workings sheds were also razed. Even as the Fire and Rescue Services personnel from Sivakasi rushed to the spot, the chemicals and unfinished fireworks kept exploding, which prevented them from taking immediate action. Superintendent of Police R. Srinivasa Perumal inspected the accident spot. Meanwhile, the accident at Vijaya Fireworks is said to have been caused while mixing chemicals at forenoon. A. Samuel Jayaraj, 48, who had gone to meet Ravi in the mixing room, sustained injuries in the explosion. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced a solatium of ₹3 lakh from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund (CMPRF) to the family of Ravi.

Kerala appoints K.V. Thomas as State's special representative in New Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

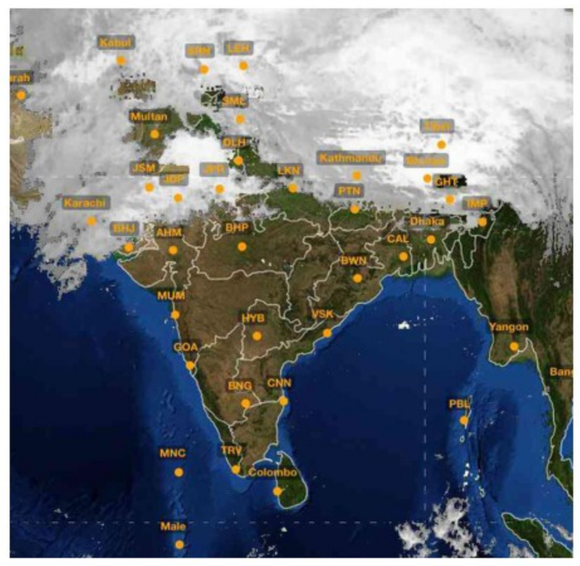
The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] has signalled that it would reward defectors from rival political parties by elevating expelled Congress leader K.V. Thomas as Kerala's special representative with Cabinet rank in New Delhi.

The Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) had drummed out Professor Thomas from the party's primary membership last year for brazenly aligning with the CPI(M). The KPCC had accused Professor Thomas of stepping out of the party line by attending a seminar hosted by the CPI(M) at its 23rd party congress in April last in Kannur.

The CPI(M) seems to believe that Professor Thomas could draw on his considerable across-the-aisle networking skills to help the government better negotiate the maze of Delhi's corridors of power. It also aspires to send a positive signal to the electorally influential Latin Catholic community by tapping one of its high-profile members for the job. The CPI(M) also appears keen to turn the page on the anti-Vizhinjam port agitation which saw the party at loggerheads with the Latin Catholic clergy. Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said Prof. Thomas was the CPI (M)'s political liaison with the BJP. He accused the government of drawing on the public exchequer to fund its political expenses by giving a Cabinet rank to Prof. Thomas.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Thunderstorm with lightning likely over western Himalayan region. Dense fog likely in isolated pockets over Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Odisha. Strong wind (speed reaching 40-45 kmph) likely over south Gulf of Mannar and adjoining Comorin area

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	23.6	8.0	Kozhikode	—	34.8	22.6
Ahmedabad	—	28.3	13.4	Kurnool	—	32.1	17.4
Aizawl	—	—	3.7	Lucknow	—	21.4	6.4
Allahabad	—	23.7	5.0	Madurai	—	31.8	18.2
Bengaluru	—	29.5	14.5	Mangaluru	—	33.8	21.5
Bhopal	—	—	7.0	Mumbai	—	29.8	16.2
Bhubaneswar	—	28.7	18.0	Mysuru	—	30.8	13.8
Chandigarh	—	21.9	9.4	New Delhi	—	22.6	5.6
Chennai	—	30.0	21.0	Patna	—	21.2	6.3
Coimbatore	—	30.8	19.6	Port Blair	—	30.2	20.6
Dehradun	—	17.8	8.7	Puducherry	—	31.4	19.6
Gangtok	1	9.0	5.0	Pune	—	32.4	13.8
Goa	—	33.5	19.7	Raipur	—	28.8	16.8
Guwahati	—	23.6	9.0	Ranchi	—	23.4	9.8
Hubballi	—	32.0	16.0	Shillong	—	14.6	3.1
Hyderabad	—	29.7	17.6	Shimla	—	13.2	5.8
Imphal	—	21.3	3.3	Srinagar	0.5	7.4	-1.4
Jaipur	—	21.8	6.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.4	20.7
Kochi	—	31.6	22.6	Tiruchi	—	29.9	19.4
Kohima	—	15.8	3.8	Vijayawada	—	29.4	18.4
Kolkata	—	23.5	15.0	Visakhapatnam	—	29.2	22.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	..17	24	... 119	...124	
Bengaluru	...3	..18	40	... 128	.....—	
Chennai	.22	..34	41	... 165	...114	
Delhi	..—	144	91	... 400	...411	
Hyderabad	...2	..58	36	..... —	...135	
Kolkata	...5	..32	71	... 309	...174	
Lucknow	.18	..75	85	... 344	...312	
Mumbai	.75	322	18	... 302	...171	
Pune	..—	..—	43	..... —	.....—	
Visakhapatnam	...3	..46	29	... 149	...129	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bettiah, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 422 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Chikkamagaluru, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 38

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office Of The Executive Engineer, Public Works Department Division, Chitradurga
No.EE:PWDC:JE-3:Tender Extension -91:2022-23 Date: 18.01.2023
Short-Term e-Tender Extension
it is hereby informed to the contractors registered in Public Works Department that due to technical reasons the Tender Period of work W.I. 156833 (2nd Call) invited in Tender Notice of this Office vide No.: EE:PWDC:Tender-91:2022-23 Dated: 09.01.2023 has been Re fixed as below. Tender dates for Works are as below: Last date for enquiries/obtaining information regarding the tender: 24.01.2023, 17.30 hrs. Last date and time for submission of tender: 25.01.2023, 16.00 hrs. Date and time of opening technical bid: 27.01.2023, 16.15 hrs. Date and time of opening financial bid: 31.01.2023, 11.00 hrs. Eligible contractors may participate in the tender by obtaining the details through website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam Further details can be obtained from the Office (Ph. No.: 08194 222446) and H.P. Company's Helpline No.: 080 25501216 and 080 25501227.
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/893/2022-23 Sd/- Executive Engineer

Government of Karnataka
(Department of Public Instruction)
KARNATAKA TEXT BOOK SOCIETY ®
6th Cross, Malleshwaram , Bengaluru-560003, Phone: 080-26422238/45
e-Mail: mdktbs.tender@gmail.com website: http://www.ktbs.kar.nic.in
No: A7/KTBS/Ba.Be.Sa.Ba.Pu.Mu.Tender/03/2022-23 Dt: 19.01.2023
SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement portal only)
Short-term Tenders are invited under Two Bid System on Government of Karnataka e-procurement platform from eligible printers, having Infrastructure as specified in the Tender Document to print and supply of "BaligeBelaku" & "SaviBaraha" Books in Karnataka state for the year 2022-23.
Eligible printers may offer their bidding up to **5.30 PM on 31.01.2023**. Tender document is available in e-portal as well as department website.
E-procurement portal address: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Portal Help line: +91-8046010000 / +91-8068948777
Department Website: http://www.ktbs.kar.nic.in
Sd/- Managing Director
Karnataka Text Book Society®, Bengaluru.

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD
Office of the Estate Officer, Krishi Nagar, Dharwad-580 005
No.EO/UASD/SURPLUS FUND/2022-23 Date:18.01.2023
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Expression of Interest is invited through e-Procurement portal from the Public Sector Banks, RRBs & Scheduled Banks those having branches in Hubli-Dharwad City Limit for providing the competitive rate of interest on Short Term Deposits. The surplus amount of Krishimela Revolving fund is to be parked in the form of short term fixed deposits in the banks. The details of the notification and conditions etc., can be had with bid document by visiting the website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1	Last Date & Time for Receipt of bids	27.01.2023	To	17.00 Hrs
2	Date & Time for Opening of bid	30.01.2023	At	11.00 Hrs

The interested Banks need to register with the e-Procurement portal for participating in the tender. For more details, please contact ph. No: **080-23010900**, The Banks are requested to get updated with corrigendum/addendum (if any) issued online at the following e-Procurement website in the entire tender process. https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.
The University reserves the right at its absolute discretion to proceed or cancel with the tender at any stage before awarding the work.
Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER
Dipr/Dwd/981/2022-23/DeshpandePublicity

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O & M Circle, Shimoga - 577 201
Phone: 08182-225544 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425
No.: SEE/SMG/EE(O)/AEE/22-23/13814-16 Date: 12.01.2023
TENDER NOTIFICATION-Call-2
MESCOM invites tender for repairing of 1 no. 5MVA, Andrew Yule make Power Transformer of 33/11 KV Hosanagara Substation, Sagara Division. The interested eligible bidders may log on to website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after 20.01.2023 for more infomation.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.) O & M Circle, Shimoga
For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-2/TENDER/2022-23/6643 DATE: 18/01/2023
Short Term E-Tender Notification (Call-3)
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Retenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 1 work under head of account 8443-Deposit Contribution (Vivek Yojane). Amount put to tender is Rs. 59.67 Lakhs.
Calendar of events :1)Last date for queries & clarifications : 23-01-2023 up to 5.30 PM, 2)Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 25-01-2023 up to 5.00 PM, 3)Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 27-01-2023 at 4.30 PM, 4)Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"
For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.
Sd/-Executive Engineer
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1584/MCA/2022-23 PWD Division Chikodi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is given to the general public that my clients are interested to purchase the Property morefully described as Schedule Property hereunder from it's owners i.e., **Sri.V. Sidda Rami Reddy, S/o. Late. Mr.V. Chenga Reddy and children.** Any person/s Bank/ Financial Institution / Company etc., having a claim, right, title, or interest over the schedule property or any objection to the proposed purchase may file their objections in writing along with copies of supporting documents to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this publication, failing which my client will be advised to go ahead and complete the sale formalities.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
ALL THE PIECE AND PARCELS of undeveloped immovable property bearing New Sy. No.69/1 measuring 6 Acres 32 guntas excluding 16 guntas of 'Kharab' land, situated at Thigalachowdadenahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Bengaluru, and bounded on;
East by; Land belonging to M.Krishna Reddy,
West by; Land belonging to Mrs.B.Rudramma,
North by; Land belonging to Mr. Nanjundappa and his children,
South by; Land belonging to Mr. Nagaraju and Mr. M.Krishna Reddy and others.
ADV.SARITHA, B.A., LL.B,
LEGAL LANDMARK, No.301, Third Floor, SMART PLAZA, Coles Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru – 560005.
Mobile No.9901224012.

Govt.of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation, Division Vijayapur
Tel.No:08352-277941, E-mail: eerdwsd.bjp@gmail.com
No:EE/RDWSD/VJP/eproc/Tender/2022-23/1856
Date:18.01.2023
E-PROCURMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION (SHORT TERM)
On behalf of Governor of Govt. of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation division, Vijayapur has invited tender through E-procurement Portal for water supply works under different head of account as follows.
Single Cover Work reserved for following category contractors
For Gen Contractor - 07
For SC Contractor - 02
For ST Contractor - 02
Last date for submission of online tender through e-proc. is 04.02.2023 at 5.30 PM, Date of opening of Financial bid is 06.02.2023 at 11.00 AM.
Two Cover : 99 Works
Last date for submission of online tender through e-proc. is 04.02.2023 at 5.30 PM Date of opening of Technical bid is 06.02.2023 at 11.00 AM. Date of opening of Financial bid is 08.02.2023 at 11.00 AM.
More details can be have from the office of the undersigned and also through http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- (Basavaraj S Kumbar)
Executive Engineer,
RDW & S Division, Vijayapur
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/774/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

Department of Public Libraries
4th Floor, Vishveshwaraiah Main Tower,
Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore - 560 001.
NO DPL/DIR/PS/17/DLCB/2022-23/7977 Date 17-01-2023
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
(2022-23 Budget Announcement Programme No-97)
Department of Public Libraries invites E-Procurement Notification for 2022-23 **ESTABLISHMENT OF CLOUD BASED DIGITAL LIBRARIES 170 CENTERS UNDER STATE LIBRARY AUTHORITY FUND IN 30 DISTRICTS AND TO PROVIDE FACILITY WITH NECESSARY HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE** in two cover system through E-Procurement portal registered Firms /companies/Manufacturers should participated through E-Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka. Estimated cost **Rs.458.00 Lakhs** and **EMD Rs.6.87 Lakhs.** The document is available in the website **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**
1) Start date of issuance/sale of tender document: **16-01-2023.** 2) Last date for Submission of Queries: **15-02-2023 at 17-30 p.m.** 3) Last date and time for Submission of tender document: **21-02-2023 at 17-30 p.m.** 4) Date and time for opening of Technical bids: **23-02-2023 at 12:30 p.m.** 5) Date and time for opening of Commercial bids: **27-02-2023 at 12:30 p.m.** 6) Date of Technical Presentation: **INTIMATED LATER.** 7) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting and Venue: **31-01-2023 at 12:30 p.m. Department of Public Libraries, Vishveshwaraiah Main Tower, 4th Floor, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore - 560 001.**
Sd/- Director,
Department of Public Libraries,
Bangalore
DIPR/DDU/AAPL/4180/2021-22

MANDYA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
MANDYA-571 401
(Autonomous Medical Institution, Government of Karnataka)
(Phone : 08232- 231003, Fax: 08232-231001
E-mail: mimsmandya@gmail.com)
Website: www.mimsmandya.org
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement only)
MIMS, Mandya, invited from the eligible Manpower supply Agencies for providing the Services of Human Resources (Cleaning and Scavengers Staff) through out-Sourcing & Food items to the Teaching Hospital of MIMS & MIMS Institution in Two Covers System as per the KTPP Act 1999 and Rules-2000.
Sl.No : **01.** Tender Notification No : **No: MIMS/O.S/Cleaning 5call/ 01/2021-22.Short term e-tender Dt: 16.01.2023.** Tender Particulars : **Tender for Providing Cleaning Staff and Scavengers.** Approximate Cost(Rs. Lakh) : **238.00 Lakhs.** EMD(Rs.) : **1.5%.**
Sl.No : **02**. Tender Notification No : **No:MIMS/sup/food/items/02.2022-23. e-tender Dt: 16.01.2023.** Tender Particulars : **Food items**. Approximate Cost (Rs. Lakh) : **30.00 lakhs.** EMD(Rs.) : **2%.**
Submission of e-Tender by paying Non Refundable fees starts from **20.01.2023** and the last date for filing of Tenders is **04.02.2023 up-to 05.30 P.M**. Further details can be obtained from website: **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** More details may be obtained from the MIMS Office during working hours. (Except General Holiday's).
Sd/-Director,
Mandya Institute of Medical Sciences, Mandya
DIPR/AD-MDY/MC&A/603/2022-23

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.49, 4th & 5th Floor, East Wing, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru – 560001.
Phone No. 080-22265383 Website: www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-46/02/2022-23 Date:19.01.2023
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)
Item rate Tender under one cover system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-III and above (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work of (1). Formation of Asphalt Road Including of RCC Side Drains at Koorgalli Industrial Area, Mysuru Taluk & District.
Category: SC/ST.
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in .**
Scheduled of dates are as follows:
Last date for submission of bids is : **02.02.2023 up to 04.30 pm**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2
KIADB, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/4188/AKAR/22-23

Interested party

The PIB might be good at checking facts, but it cannot be the sole arbiter of truth

A proposal by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology that seeks to force social media platforms to take down content "fact-checked" by the Government's Press Information Bureau (PIB) as false needs to be opposed without even a second look. The proposed amendment to the IT Rules opens the door for the PIB or any other agency "authorised by the central government for fact checking" for the purpose of such takedowns. This is problematic at many levels, with deep implications for free speech and information. At the most basic level, the question to be asked is how a wing of the "nodal agency of the Government of India", whose job is "to disseminate information to the print and electronic media on government policies, programmes, initiatives and achievements", could be the deciding authority on what is factual and what is not. The disturbing absurdity of an interested party also playing the judge cannot be missed. It is a really nasty world of disinformation out there but one would have to be delusional to think that governments do not have an axe to grind. If the proposal is implemented, the government can play the super censor at will.

While this proposal signals a new low in the administration's thinking on matters of regulating news and information, things were not rosy prior to this either. The government in recent years has given enough indications that it wants to control the news sphere. The reworked IT Rules in early 2021 are an example of this. A similar mindset was reflected in the provisions of the data privacy Bill that gave government agencies a free pass. Defending the government and its institutions in the public sphere by putting out data or statements is very much within the PIB's ambit and logically defensible; but fact-checking is a very different thing. This is not to say that the PIB's fact check unit has not debunked rumours circulating on various social media platforms. It has, but it has done so as the agency of the government. Making its "fact-checks" binding on news disseminating platforms is something else. With this, the government will have a tool with which to easily throttle voices opposing it. Indeed, it will be the sole arbiter of truth. The Editors Guild of India has rightly criticised the proposal by pointing out that "determination of fake news cannot be in the sole hands of the government and will result in the censorship of the press". Fake news has to be dealt with in an appropriate manner, but the proposal in question will only make the task harder.

Clarity and purpose

Success has not made BJP complacent about political strategy, electoral tactics

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has unveiled its road map for the next general election at its national executive which also extended the term of party president J.P. Nadda to June 2024. Under his presidency, the party's electoral performance has been impressive, notwithstanding the recent loss in Himachal Pradesh, his home State. Mr. Nadda has termed the extension of his tenure a 'privilege and honour' and an 'immense responsibility'. The power commanded by the president is dependent on the occupant in the BJP. Mr. Nadda draws his authority from the confidence he enjoys of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah who are the ultimate decision makers. This is not unprecedented for the party – A.B. Vajpayee and L.K. Advani were more powerful than party presidents. The party has called upon its cadres to work towards winning all nine Assembly elections due in 2023. The BJP is in power, singlehandedly in Tripura and as part of coalitions in Nagaland and Meghalaya, three States for which elections were announced on Wednesday. The party is also trying to emerge as a serious contender for power in Telangana for the first time, retain power in the key States of Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, and recapture Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is also likely to have its first election in 2023, where the BJP is experimenting with a new brand of politics.

The BJP has said it practises "a politics of saturation and governance of saturation" – possibly alluding to the relentless campaigns around government schemes that target various constituencies. At the national executive, the party noted with glee that a series of controversies and missteps, from demonetisation to Goods and Services Tax, and the Rafale defence deal to Pegasus snooping, did not damage the party. It said all these were failed attempts by the Opposition to discredit the Modi government. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is trying to build a new politics against the BJP through his Bharat Jodo Yatra, but Opposition politics is caught in confusion and rivalries. The BJP is clearly counting on the continuing popularity of Mr. Modi into yet another season of victories to be capped with a third consecutive Lok Sabha win in 2024. The party also has a clear strategy for mobilisation. Mr. Nadda emphasised the persistent outreach of the party towards the Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Dalit communities. Traditionally an upper caste dominated party, the BJP has made deep inroads among other segments. The party is also focusing on new regions such as West Bengal and Telangana for expansion. Success has not made the BJP complacent.

Judging a decade of the POCSO Act

R.K. Vij

is a former Special Director General of Police of Chhattisgarh

Ten years have passed since the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, enacted in consequence to India's ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1992, came into effect on November 14, 2012. The aim of this special law is to address offences of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, which were either not specifically defined or in adequately penalised. Amidst the debate on the poor conviction rate under POCSO and a lowering of the age of consent from 18 years to 16 years (though rejected by the Central government), it is worth evaluating its impact on the ground.

A significant feature of the POCSO Act is its gender-neutral nature. Even though the National Crime Records Bureau has not published data on male and female victims separately, in Chhattisgarh, male child victims accounted for about eight in every 1,000 POCSO cases (0.8%). Though the reported number is not big, it still endorses society's apprehension that the sexual exploitation of male children is also a serious issue that has been largely unreported. Second, there is sufficient general awareness now to report cases of sexual exploitation of children not only by individuals but also by institutions as non-reporting has been made a specific offence under the POCSO Act. This has made it comparatively difficult to hide offences against children.

The storage of child pornography material has been made a new offence. Further, the offence of 'sexual assault' has been defined in explicit terms (with increased minimum punishment) unlike an abstract definition of 'outraging modesty of a woman' in the Indian Penal Code.

No change in investigation

However, a large part of the investigation of offences under the Act is still guided by the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC). The investigation of penetrative sexual assault cases generally involves recording the statement of the prosecutrix, a medical and forensic science laboratory (FSL) examination, and determination of the child's age. The POCSO Act provides for recording the statement of the affected child by a woman sub-inspector at the child's residence or place of choice. But it is practically impossible to comply with this provision when the number of women in the police force is just 10%, and many police stations hardly have women staff. In 2015, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) introduced a scheme to create an Investigation Unit on Crime Against Women (IUCAW) which was to be made up of 15 police officers (with at least one-third comprising women officers and headed by an additional superintendent of police) in each district. Its aim was to ensure quality investigation of crimes against women on a 50:50 expenditure sharing basis; the response by States to the scheme has been half-hearted. Similarly, despite funds being provided by the Centre to strengthen mahila desks, many police stations still do not have even a single woman staff.

> There needs to be a review of the way the Act has been implemented, as there are imperfections despite its impact

Similarly, though there is a provision to record statements using audio-video means, and a Supreme Court judgment, *Shafhi Mohammad vs The State of Himachal Pradesh* (2018), on capturing and preserving the scene of crime of heinous offences using audio-video means (followed by standardization of technical specifications by the Bureau of Police Research and Development for uniformity), the pilot project has yet to be implemented across States. In the absence of proper infrastructure to ensure the integrity of electronic evidence, the admissibility of evidence recorded using any audio-video means will always remain a challenge. Another provision mandates the recording of the statement of the prosecutrix by a judicial magistrate. Though such statements are recorded in most cases, judicial magistrates are neither called for cross-examination during trial nor are those who retract their statement punished. In such a scenario, such statements get nullified.

Second, medical examination of the prosecutrix is conducted according to provisions of the CrPC. However, the medical examination of a girl child is conducted by a female doctor (as specified in the POCSO Act). Even so, and as observed by the Supreme Court of India, there are instances where the banned two-finger test is still in use. Further, there have been no attempts to upgrade the FSLs in States to expedite the examination of exhibits. The fact is that many cases have a charge sheet without an accompanying FSL report, which is then decided by courts.

Issue of age determination

Third, though age determination of a juvenile delinquent is guided by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, no such provision exists under the POCSO Act for juvenile victims. The Supreme Court in *Jarnail Singh vs State of Haryana* (2013) held that the given statutory provision should also be the basis to help determine age even for a child who is a victim of crime. However, in absence of any change in the law or even specific directions, the investigating officers (IOs) continue to rely on the the date of birth recorded in school admission-withdrawal registers – which, in most cases, parents (in the absence of hospital or any other authentic records) are not able to defend in the court. Age estimation based on medical opinion is generally so wide in scope that in most cases minors are proved to be major. Once a minor is proved to be a major, the probability of acquittal increases based on other factors such as consent or no injury to private parts. Thus, the POCSO Act has made no difference in investigation when it comes to proving juvenility.

Period of investigation

Further, the time mandated to complete investigation of rape (as in the CrPC, without a similar provision in the POCSO Act) is two months. Though the aim is to expedite investigation, it has resulted in two significant changes on the field. One, there is much pressure on the IOs to somehow submit a charge sheet in two months irrespective of what stage the investigation is at. The IOs do not want to invite internal punishment as the Ministry of Home Affairs supervises POCSO cases through the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) and State police headquarters. Thus, unfortunately, the focus is largely on completion of investigation in two months irrespective of quality.

Second, if a charge sheet was not put up in 90 days of the arrest of the accused, he/she was granted bail. Now, when a charge sheet is put up in 60 days of the FIR (and not arrest), the accused may seek bail immediately after the filing of the charge sheet. Thus, it is the accused, and not the victim, who gets the benefit of completing an investigation in a shorter time.

The POCSO Act provides that the court shall presume that the accused has committed the offence. No conditions whatsoever are laid down in the POCSO Act in contrast to the Indian Evidence Act (Section 114(b)) which clearly provides for the prosecution to prove recent intercourse, and the prosecutrix to state in court that she did not consent. However, it has been observed that even after the minor age of the victim is proved, no such presumption (howsoever small a relevance it may have) is taken up by the court during trial.

Under such circumstances, the expected increase in the conviction rate is unlikely to be achieved. Therefore, it is time that there is a review of the way the POCSO Act is implemented to see how far it has helped victims of sexual exploitation and what more needs to be done to ensure justice.

The views expressed are personal

Flip the page to the chapter on middle schoolchildren

Rukmini Banerji

is CEO, Pratham Education Foundation

After a gap of four years, the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) report for 2022 was recently released in New Delhi. This nationwide household survey that covers all rural districts in the country generates estimates for schooling and basic learning for every State in India. Data from 2018 and 2022 can be compared with longer run trends over the last decade to see how the COVID-19 years have impacted India.

The National Education Policy 2020 gives high priority to the acquisition of foundational literacy and numeracy skills especially for children in early grades. "NIPUN Bharat" (where NIPUN is National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) the government's flagship programme designed to translate policy into practice, is beginning to have traction in many States.

Given that the policy and implementation focus currently is on early years in primary school, it may be useful to also understand how older children in upper primary grades are faring.

A look at the metrics

In 2018, the all-India rural enrolment figure for the age group 6-14 years was 97.2%. In ASER 2022 data, this is now 98.4%. The rise has been accompanied by a significant shift away from private schools to government schools. Several factors may be at play – decrease in family income, permanent closures of low-cost private schools, and the efforts of many State governments to provide services even when schools were closed such as mid-day meal rations, teaching-learning materials shared remotely, worksheet and textbook distribution.

On the 'plus' side, rising enrolment means that more students can benefit for longer, sustained periods of time from schooling. Completion of the entire cycle of eight years of schooling for each cohort of 25 million students is no mean achievement in a country of India's size and diversity. On the 'minus' side, with more and more students going through the middle school pipeline and attending secondary schools, there is increased competition for post-secondary opportunities. Board examinations continue to perform a gatekeeping function. Acute examination stress, grade inflation in school-leaving examinations, difficulties of gaining admission into college, and lack of appropriate jobs for many school leavers are all consequences of high enrolment and completion rates.

> With policy and implementation focused on the early years in primary school, it is time to rethink strategy for India's schoolchildren who have gone past the foundational stage

Since its inception, ASER has measured foundational skills in reading and arithmetic. The highest reading task on the ASER tool is reading a text at Grade II level of difficulty. In mathematics, the highest level is a numerical three-digit by one-digit division problem, usually expected of children in standard four or so. The assessment is done one on one with each sampled child in the household. The child is marked at the highest level that she/he can comfortably reach. The same tasks are used for all children aged 5 years to 16 years.

ASER data shows that even in 2018, basic skills of children in upper primary grades left a lot to be desired: less than a third of all children in standard five and less than half of those in standard eight could do division in pre-COVID-19 times. These low levels which are worrying declined further between 2018 and 2022, especially in reading. ASER evidence suggests that basic learning levels of middle schoolchildren have remained low and stagnant for over a decade. The "value" add of each year of middle school is small.

Thinking ahead

In the last 10 years, much has changed such as new technologies, new knowledge domains, and new ways of operating. But within our school systems, many children are reaching standard eight without being sufficiently equipped with foundational literacy and numeracy skills, let alone higher-level capabilities.

Unless children have strong foundational skills, they cannot acquire higher level skills or develop advanced content knowledge. ASER data shows that an "overambitious" curriculum and the linear age-grade organisational structure of Indian schools result in a vast majority of children getting "left behind" early in their school career. In the absence of in-school mechanisms for "catch up", children fall further and further behind academically. With this comes low motivation to learn and a lack of self-confidence. At the same time, as children reach higher grades, parental and family aspirations for the child's future increase.

Our school system is driven by preparations for Board examinations. Academic content transacted in schools implicitly assumes that students are being prepared for college. However, the reality is that a college degree is neither relevant nor possible for most students who finish secondary school. It is also not clear that a college degree will lead to the prized white-collar jobs that most students and their families are aspiring for.

Now that schools have stayed open for most of this school year, most children are back in school, the urgency of dealing with "learning loss" is acknowledged, and we have a policy that speaks of "critical thinking" and "flexible pathways through school", it is time to rethink and rework what happens with our children once they grow past the foundational stage of schooling. Much of the country's efforts in school education today are focused on ensuring strong foundations for children in the early years. But it is critical that we remember that middle schoolchildren also urgently need support for learning recovery and "catch up".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ASER report

The observations made in the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) are alarming. Forget a Class 3 student. That even a Class 5 student is unable to read a Class 2-level textbook is a serious issue and would have a deleterious and cascading effect on his future (Inside pages, "Report flags widening learning gaps", January 19). They are an indictment of the education system. Schools should take immediate remedial action before it is too late. While the sharp rise in children enrolled in government schools is a positive outcome of the pandemic, the main reason is the usurious fee structure of private schools. Now that enrolment in government schools is up, it should be their endeavour to improve their standards of teaching.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

Pakistan's signals of peace

It is apparent that like his brother and former Prime Minister, Pakistan leader Shahbaz Sharif is aware of the need to improve ties with India and the immensely beneficial trade potential waiting to be tapped but being wasted as a result of hostile bilateral relations. The Sharif brothers are successful businessmen and this counts.

Yet, as keeping the Kashmir cauldron boiling is a matter of sustenance for the Pakistan Army and also the extremists, only time will tell whether they are on board. And if so, for how long.

Nalini Vijayaraghavan,
Thiruvananthapuram

Pakistan ought to know that war only brings with it havoc and devastation, apart from the loss of young lives. It is time Pakistan leaves behind the path of confrontation and considers India to be a good neighbour and friend. Funds wasted in defence preparedness and wars can very well be spent on enabling social welfare.

Ramesh G. Jethwani,
Bengaluru

Ever since Partition, Pakistan has been waging either wars or proxy wars with India over Kashmir. Unfortunately, certain world powers too have aided and abetted Pakistan. One hopes that Mr. Sharif's 'realisation' is genuine and could lead to the cessation of hostilities between the two countries.

Govardhana Myneedu,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

What is key to controlling diabetes? Awareness or wealth?

K. Srinath Reddy

is a physician and an Honorary Distinguished Professor at the Public Health Foundation of India

PARLEY

Data from the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) indicate that more than the wealth of a person, awareness levels play a relatively superior role in diabetes incidence. But do ground realities support this conclusion drawn using data? **Sonikka Loganathan** speaks to K. Srinath Reddy and Emilija Zabiliute about the wealth-awareness-diabetes link. Edited excerpts:

The NFHS-5 data indicate that 10.6% of women in the poorest 20% households were either on medication to control diabetes or have a random blood glucose level higher than 140 mg/dL (milligrams per decilitre). The corresponding figure for the richest 20% of households is 17%. With such a marginal difference, is it correct to call diabetes a rich man's disease?

Dr. Emilija Zabiliute

is Lecturer, Anthropologist, Durham University (Department of Anthropology). Her field research includes a study on living with diabetes in Delhi, and how it is shaped by family care and gender relations

Emilija Zabiliute: You're right. I think there are a lot of preconceptions, and diabetes is usually associated with surplus food. However, it doesn't really reflect the ground realities. Data show that not only the incidence of diabetes, but also the scale of suffering from chronic illnesses and, especially when it comes to complications, the impact are severe among people with low income levels too. So, in terms of both disease incidence and how people experience the disease, it's not just a rich people's disease, as our popular imagination suggests very often.

K. Srinath Reddy: Indeed, neither is it a man's disease, nor is it a rich person's disease. If you look at the global distribution of diabetes, both men and women are affected by it. And we know from global experience that, in general, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and some other chronic diseases start first in the higher socioeconomic group, and then progressively reverse. In fact, the poorer sections become the more dominant victims over a period of time when the epidemics mature into an advanced stage.

EZ: Of course, there are a lot of changes in urban diets, but also among poorer folks. We may assume that persons who do physically intensive work will eat traditional diets, but their diets have been changing as well. Not just in India, but across the world, unhealthy food is cheaper. But there are a variety of reasons, and there is no one explanation.

What are some of the factors behind diabetes among the poor beyond what we know, which is diet and exercise? And what kinds of challenges are they facing?

GETTY IMAGES

KSR: Diet, physical activity, also the kinds of stress levels, sleep levels, all these are important contributors to body inflammation, which is the underlying basis of both diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The poor now consume far less fruit and vegetables. And they also have polished grain, therefore they don't get much fibre. They consume unhealthy edible oils, which stoke inflammation. Also, if we take body mass index for defining overweight and obesity, the problem is more with the total body fat, or adiposity. If it is distributed much more around the abdominal organs, it is called visceral adiposity, which is much more associated with inflammation and insulin resistance and diabetes. Unfortunately, the kind of unhealthy foods that the poor are forced to eat can lead to a fair amount of visceral adiposity. Routine health services do not really reach the poor in adequate numbers for timely diagnosis. Therefore, diabetes doesn't get detected, or is detected very late, when it has already reached the stage of complications. And even when they do access health services, they're not often treated with the same level of consideration as some of the richer and affluent sections are.

EZ: It is crucial to understand that lifestyle is not something people directly choose; this really depends on structural conditions and social processes. Food choices are not necessarily just about a person's individual choices or wishes, they depend on their economic position and social environment.

How would diabetes play out differently between a lower-income person and a higher-income person, once diagnosed?

EZ: I worked with people in Delhi who had lower income levels. They could not afford

> You may have a high income level, but if you're not well-educated, you're more likely to get diseases
> **K. SRINATH REDDY**

medicines, so they looked for free government medication and insulin doses. But to access that, you have to make a lengthy journey. For working class people to even allocate a day to travel and spend in a hospital is tough. Women, for instance, have child care responsibilities, and it is almost impossible to go to hospital.

When we look at NFHS data, we see that 17.4% of women who had completed zero years of schooling were either on medication to control diabetes or had a random blood glucose level higher than 140 mg/dL. The corresponding figure for women who completed 11 years of schooling was much lower, 8.4%. Can education be used as a proxy for awareness about the disease?

KSR: Education matters a lot. If you had asked this question about 50 years ago, or 100 years ago, in India, we would have said that the richer and more educated sections would have more diabetes. But over the last 20-25 years, it's become clear that there has been a reversal of the social gradient. When it comes to diabetes, and cardiovascular disease, education trumps even income. You may have a high income level, but if you're not well-educated, you're more likely to get diseases. If you do not have a high income level, and you're not well-educated, then you're suffering in both ways.

EZ: Knowledge is very important. However, during my research, I've never met people who didn't know what diabetes is. Even those persons who had very low literacy levels, very low formal education levels knew what diabetes was. And they actually also had a lot of knowledge on how to control it. They really creatively navigate those care ecologies that are available for them with a lot of effort and manage somehow to assemble care that is needed for them. So, very often people know about the disease, however, it's the everyday constraints and social constraints that prevent them from caring for themselves.

How is diabetes manifesting among rural populations?

KSR: Let me first take you to the U.S. Rural America that has more obesity, or diabetes, or hypertension or cardiovascular disease. That was not true about 70 years ago. Health transition takes place over time, along with developmental transition and urbanisation. Now the same phenomenon is happening in India. The rates are increasing fairly rapidly in rural India. The kind of food they're eating is ultra-processed. With labour-saving transport devices becoming available in rural parts, the physical activity levels are also getting lower.

How does diabetes affect women differently?

EZ: India is so diverse that to make generalisations is quite difficult. However, there are communities where mostly women are responsible for cooking, and there is a quiet division of labour. There are also certain familial and gendered hierarchies around food-sharing and food-making. I did some research and found that it's difficult for a woman in India, especially among low-income groups, to cook food for herself separately from the family if she has diabetes, because there's a lack of resources. And that it wouldn't be socially acceptable to put so much effort on your own meals.

Is this really a question of access to information about invisible diseases, rather than of wealth?

KSR: We are seeing a huge rise in diabetes in India. So, it's absolutely important for us to make people much more aware of the risk factors, to enable them to have healthier diets which are affordable, to promote greater levels of physical activity, and to educate them about what diabetes is in terms of symptoms, and complications, and motivate them to seek early self-referral.

EZ: If you are thinking about medical knowledge, I'm sure that among persons with a high degree of formal education it would be higher. But, is it knowledge about diabetes or is it about diabetes care? Also, does that knowledge actually translate into better care for these persons even if they understand what diabetes is in biological and medical terms? Among poor populations, it really would be mostly the structural issues that wouldn't allow persons to do what the doctors advise.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

The inevitable geopolitical lens in Sri Lanka

It is telling how little people of the island nation figure in this compulsive India-China framing

Meera Srinivasan

If it's a conversation on Sri Lanka's economy, talking points on China and India are inevitable. 'What about China?, What will India do?' are questions that invariably come up in casual chats, as well as official meetings and briefings. Watching the escalating China-India contest in Sri Lanka is a preoccupation for Sri Lankan columnists and diplomats stationed in Colombo. With the crisis-plagued island's imminent debt restructuring programme in focus, the interest in the two big powers' responses has only grown.

For context, China is a close partner of Sri Lanka and its largest bilateral creditor. At the end of 2021, the island owed about $7.4 billion or 19.6% of its outstanding public debt to China. For Sri Lanka watchers, especially those based in the West or India, that's a "Chinese debt trap".

India is Sri Lanka's closest neighbour with shared history and geography. India, after Japan, is Sri Lanka's third largest bilateral lender and a key development partner. Last year, India extended nearly $4 billion to Sri Lanka to help mitigate its crisis. Prior to the emergency credit in 2022, Sri Lanka owed just under a billion dollars to India.

The "Chinese debt trap" narrative is irresistible for some, despite economists in Sri Lanka and elsewhere repeatedly debunking that theory. Sri Lanka may be in a debt trap, but it's not necessarily Chinese. The largest chunk of Sri Lanka's foreign debt is owed to largely Western, private creditors holding International Sovereign Bonds, as a recent statement by global scholars, too, pointed out.

But that doesn't mean official lenders should be spared public scrutiny. Whether Chinese loans "trap" Sri Lanka or not, it is a fact that the small island nation still owes a huge sum to a very powerful partner. Similarly, while India pitched in with crucial assistance last year, that doesn't mean its other loans and investments, both state and private, should not be probed. The terms of any of these loans, be it from China, India, private lenders, or big FDIs merit close attention.

For journalists, therein lies the rub. Finding out how exactly Sri Lanka might be trapped in debt requires access to information fiercely guarded by the establishment. What are the rates of lending, what is the period of the loan, how exactly is the borrowed money being put to use, what happens when the borrower cannot repay the amount? While these are obvious questions to ask, officials would usually respond with something decidedly unhelpful, but fancy-sounding, such as: "we are working out the contours of the agreement". Interestingly, the reductive India-China lens framing Sri Lanka's economic realities leaves little room even for Japan, once Sri Lanka's top donor and currently its second largest official lender.

But more telling is how little Sri Lankans figure in this compulsive geopolitical framing. Irrespective of where the money comes from, the people in whose name it is sought by the Sri Lankan government have high stakes in its use.

For they see projects not merely as Indian, or Chinese assisted. They evaluate it on the basis of whether a development project works for them, or not.

Annalingam Annarasa, a prominent fisher leader in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna district, has recently been drawing attention to sea cucumber farms rapidly springing up in the war-affected areas with Chinese investment. Fisher folk have been barred access to parts of their coastline, and the aggressive sea cucumber cultivation is bound to damage the local marine ecosystem, he worries. His problem is not that the project is Chinese, but that it is dangerous to their environment and livelihoods. In fact, I met Mr. Annarasa many years ago, as someone who vehemently opposes Indian fishing trawlers ravaging Sri Lanka's northern seas. As a journalist-friend of mine says: "understanding is in the general, truth is in the specifics".

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

A rare find

Scientists have found meteorites, with one of them weighing 7.6 kilogram, from the depths of Antarctica Blue Ice, an area with strong winds where the glaciers get ablated. They believe that the 7.6-kg meteorite belongs to the oldest material that can be found on earth. PTI

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 20, 1973

New tank being deployed at Avadi

Madras, Jan. 19: An entirely Indian made tank, "Main Battle Tank", is being deployed at the Avadi Tank Factory and will be in service with the Indian Armoured Corps during the eighties', Mr. V.C. Shukla, Union Minister for Defence Production, said here to-day. Mr. Shukla, who was talking to pressmen at Avadi, said the tank would be the second generation of the world famous 'Vijayanta' tank now in service with the Indian Army. The new tank would be of entirely Indian design and manufactured without any foreign help. In developing the new tank, the Defence Minister had taken into consideration the various scientific and technical knowhow that would be available in the field, he said. The Union Minister said that the modern trend was to manufacture tanks with greater fire power, ability to be more mobile and at the same time capable of greater manoeuvrability and provided with gadgets capable of loading more ammunition on it.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 20, 1923

The Financial year

New Delhi, Jan. 19: The Government of India had under consideration the question of changing the date of the commencement of the Indian Financial year from April 1 to November 1 or January 1. The matter had been raised on more than one occasion and notably by the Royal Commission on Indian Finance and Currency of 1913. The main object is that it would facilitate more accurate budgeting.

From Page One

SC Collegium firm on appointing gay lawyer

The government, the collegium said, was also worried that same-sex marriage was not recognised in India though "homosexuality stands decriminalised".

"Moreover," the collegium quoted the Law Minister's missive of April 2021 stating that Mr. Kirpal's "passionate attachment to gay rights" did not rule out the "possibility of bias and prejudice".

Replying to the government, the Collegium said the R&AW did not consider the individual conduct of either Mr. Kirpal or his partner as having "any bearing on national security".

Besides, many constitutional authorities in India have or had foreign spouses. "Many persons in high positions, including present and past holders of constitutional offices have had spouses who are foreign nationals. There can be no objection to the candidature of Shri Saurabh Kirpal on the ground that his partner is a foreign national," the collegium said. Moreover, in this case, Switzerland was a friendly nation, the collegium pointed out to the Centre. The collegium said the fact that Mr. Kirpal is open about his sexual orientation goes to his credit. The lawyer's sexual orientation is his constitutionally recognised right. He has never been "surreptitious" about it. Mr. Kirpal, the Collegium said, possessed "competence, integrity and intellect" and he would be an asset to the Delhi High Court as a judge.

"His appointment will add value to the Bench of the Delhi High Court and provide inclusion and diversity," the collegium underscored.

If appointed, Mr. Kirpal would be India's first openly gay judge in a High Court.

Came to share your pain: Rahul in J&K

"We think hatred has gone deep into society. However, after walking 3,800 km from Kanyakumari, I realised that is not the case. People carry a deeper sense of love and not hatred," Mr. Gandhi said. He said the issues of a Hindu-Muslim divide, hatred and violence were deliberately raked up to take away the attention from real issues. Mr. Gandhi will address another public rally in Jammu on January 23 before heading for the Kashmir Valley. More local leaders, including the NC's Omar Abdullah, the People's Democratic Party's Mehbooba Mufti and her daughter Iltija Mufti, CPI(M)'s M.Y. Tarigami and the Awami National Conference's Muzaffar Shah, are likely to join the yatra later.

Wrestlers threaten to step up protest

"Yesterday there were two girls. Now we have five or six girls who are willing to step forward with proof," Mr. Punia said at Jantar Mantar, where he and several international and Olympic medallists have gathered in protest since Wednesday.

Two-time world medallist and three-time Commonwealth Games champion Vinesh Phogat added that if their demands were not heard, they would have to approach the police. "Earlier we had two girls and now we have five or six girls who are willing to share proof. If we are not heard we will go to the police and take the matter forward," she said. However, Ms. Phogat said that while they knew victims were willing to speak publicly, she hoped it would not come to that.

On Thursday night, the protesting wrestlers led by Ms. Phogat and Mr. Punia besides Sakshi Malik, Anshu Malik, Ravi Dahiya, Sarita Mor, among others met Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur at his residence and demanded speedy action.

Mr. Punia and Ms. Phogat's statements about approaching the police came a few hours after they met representatives of the Sports Ministry along with Rio Olympic bronze medallist Sakshi to present their demands.

Meanwhile, the Congress asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to break his "silence" on the allegations of sexual exploitation against BJP MP Singh. The party also questioned the reason for the delay in seeking the resignation of those against whom serious allegations have been made by renowned wrestlers.

(With inputs from Kamesh Srinivasan)

We want normal ties with Pak., says MEA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India desires "normal neighbourly relation" with Pakistan in an atmosphere that is free of violence, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated on Thursday.

To a question on Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent offer of holding "serious" dialogue with India on the Kashmir issue, MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi pointed out that India's position on talks with Pakistan had not changed.

"We have seen the comment by the (Pakistan) Prime Minister. We have also seen, after that, the Prime Minister's Office made certain remarks. We reiterate our position that we always desire normal neighbourly relation with Pakistan but there should be a conducive atmosphere that should not include terror, hostility or violence," the spokesperson said.

DCW chief molested and dragged by car; man held

Incident happened when Swati Maliwal was inspecting the condition of safety of women in the city during night time after a woman was run over by a car and dragged for a long distance

Mehul Malpani
NEW DELHI

Out to inspect the state of women's safety in the city in the night, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal said she was molested and dragged by a person in a car in the early hours of Thursday near the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in South Delhi, the police said.

According to the police, they received a PCR call regarding the incident at 3.11 a.m. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South district), Chandan Chowdhary said the call was made from a special police patrol vehicle about a woman in distress opposite AIIMS gate no. 2. "When the officers in the patrolling van asked, the woman mentioned that a person driving a car was drunk and stopped near her and asked her to sit in the car with a bad intention. When she refused, he went but came back after taking a U-turn from the service lane. He once again asked her to sit in the car. She refused and went near the driver's side window to reprimand him. The car driver quickly rolled up the window, as such her hand got stuck and she was dragged for 10-15 metres," said Ms. Chowdhary, adding, "The woman was identified as Ms. Swati Maliwal."

> While on the inspection, a man molested me and dragged me with his car. If DCW chief isn't safe in Delhi, one can imagine how unsafe Delhi is for women
>
> **SWATI MALIWAL**
> DCW chief

Ms. Chowdhary said the police intercepted the vehicle at 3.34 a.m. and arrested the driver of the car, Harish Chandra, a resident of Sangam Vihar.

Reacting to the incident, the DCW, in a statement, said Ms. Maliwal was inspecting the condition of safety of women during night time when the incident happened.

Ms. Maliwal, in a video statement, said, she could have met "the same fate as Anjali Singh", the woman who was killed after being hit and dragged by a car in outer district's Sultanpuri on January 1.

She said the man only let her go when her team members yelled and came towards her.

"If DCW chief isn't safe in Delhi, one can imagine how unsafe Delhi is for women," she said.

Will take a decision on plea on Ram Setu soon, Centre tells SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government said it is considering the question of declaring Ram Setu a 'national monument'

The Supreme Court on Thursday recorded that the government is in the process of considering the question of declaring the Ram Setu a "national monument".

It allowed petitioner, former Rajya Sabha member Subramanian Swamy, if he so desired, to present additional material on the issue before the Ministry of Culture. A Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud asked the government to apprise the court once the process was over.

"There is a process going on. If he (Mr. Swamy) makes a representation, we will take a decision immediately," Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, submitted.

In its order, the court, disposing of the application filed by Dr. Swamy, said "the Solicitor General states that the process is currently underway in the Ministry of Culture".

The government stated recently in Parliament that satellite imagery cannot provide "direct information" about the origin and age of the structure in the Ram Setu region.

Dr. Swamy had raised the issue of declaring the Ram Setu a national monument in his PIL petition against the controversial Sethusamudram Ship Channel project.

National Export Cooperative Society to trade nano fertilizers, dairy products in 3 months

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Nano fertilizers produced by IFFCO and dairy products from Amul will be among the first few products that are expected to be exported by the first-ever National Export Cooperative Society that was approved by the Union Cabinet on January 11. The society's registration will be complete in the next few days and the first consignment will be exported in three months, a senior government official said on Thursday.

Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited (KRIBHCO), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED), Guajrat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), better known as Amul, and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) will be the promoters of the society and contribute ₹100 crore each. The society will have an authorised share capital of ₹2,000 crore with the area of operation all over the country. It will have its registered office in Delhi.

Shot in the arm: The society will have an authorised share capital of ₹2,000 crore. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Though Amul and IFFCO currently export products to countries such as Brazil, the Philippines, Kenya and Canada, the proposed society is expected to enhance the scale and volume of exports.

"The society will benefit the smallest of farmer or artisan who has a good product but does not have access to the right platform. Through this society, they will get access to international market and good returns too. Once the product has been tested for international standards, the packaging and export will be done by the society," the official said.

'Think globally'

The official said there were 8.54 lakh registered cooperatives with more than 29 crore members. "Cooperatives need to think globally and act locally to leverage their comparative advantage in all economic areas. The focus will be on exporting the surplus available in the country in the cooperative sector," the official said.

The society will be different from the Export Promotion Council under the Ministry of Commerce that only acts as a facilitator and provides information about the potential markets that can be tapped for a particular product.

"This society will provide end-to-end services to the cooperatives. It will open foreign bank accounts and complete all the formalities, including necessary permissions for exporting a product. The dividends will be shared with the manufacturer instantly and without any brokerage fee," the official said.

The proposed society will hire consultants in foreign countries who will help expand its footprint across continents.

CBI books businessman for trying to bribe lawyer

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked a businessman, Amit Kumar Agarwal, and some officials of the Kolkata Police for allegedly luring a lawyer into receiving ₹50 lakh in bribe to get the PIL petitions purportedly involving him and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren dismissed.

"On Thursday, searches were conducted at multiple locations in Jharkhand and Kolkata," said an agency official. In December 2022, the CBI initiated an inquiry into the conduct of Mr. Agarwal on the charge of scandalising the judiciary, Enforcement Directorate officials and other government officials.

SC reserves order on bail petition of Ashish Mishra

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said denial of bail to Ashish Mishra, the prime accused in the Lakhimpur Kheri killings and son of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Kumar Mishra, will have a ripple effect on poor farmers languishing in jail in a counter case, and they may not get out "for all time to come".

The court was referring to the four farmers chargesheeted by the Uttar Pradesh Police in a "cross FIR" relating to the Lakhimpur violence for the alleged lynching of a driver and two workers of the BJP .

"There are poor farmers languishing in jail... who is going to look after them if this man (Ashish Mishra) is not granted anything... Nobody is going to grant them bail. They will remain in jail for all time to come," Justice Surya Kant, leading a Bench with Justice J.K. Maheshwari, said reserving Mr. Mishra's bail plea for judgment.

The State of Uttar Pradesh, represented by Additional Advocate General Garima Prasad, said the government was strongly contesting Mr. Mishra's bail.

Much awaited: (from left) Writer Namita Gokhale; Nobel laureate Abdulrazak Gurnah; Managing Director of Festival Producer, Teamwork Arts, Sanjoy K. Roy; and historian William Dalrymple at the Jaipur Literature Festival on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jaipur Literature Festival opens with Nobel winner Gurnah's keynote address

Radhika Santhanam
JAIPUR

"Other literature festivals may do what they do, but no one does mayhem like we do," declared William Dalrymple as he, Sanjoy Roy and Namita Gokhale kicked off the 16th edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival on Thursday following a music performance.

Celebrating the "power of literature, art and culture with a focus on Indian languages", the festival, which is being held completely in-person for the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak, features sessions on 21 Indian and 14 international languages across five venues.

It features 350 participants speaking on subjects including climate justice, the female voice, crime fiction, memoir, translation, poetry, economics, tech morality and Artificial Intelligence, the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the violence unleashed by the British Empire, Partition, geopolitics and art.

The literary extravaganza hosts sessions by eminent people including Abdulrazak Gurnah, Geetanjali Shree, Shehan Karunatilaka, Tanuj Solanki, Ashok Ferry, Ashwin Sanghi, Avinuo Kire, Bernadine Evaristo, Chigozie Obioma, Daisy Rockwell, Deepti Naval, Christopher Kloeble, Alex von Tunzelmann, B.N. Goswami, Gulzar, Javed Akhtar, Ruth Ozeki, Katherine Rundell and Marlon James.

Nobel laureate Gurnah delivered the keynote address on 'writing as a form of resistance'. He spoke of resistance not so much to tyrannical rule, as is widely understood, but to the more ordinary things in life. Writing, he said, is a "form of resistance to forgetfulness, to distraction, to neglect, to let what we know and what we remember to pass away".

Scrapping of scheme did not raise price of rice: Food Secretary

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

According to Sanjeev Chopra, the retail prices of rice had fallen by 0.42% in the last week

The price of rice had fallen in the last week, said Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra, countering the Kerala government's stand that the prices had increased after the Centre's decision to discontinue the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY).

Talking to reporters here on Thursday, Mr. Chopra also said the Centre would assess the domestic production and demand for sugar, before taking a decision to increase the sugar export quota.

Kerala Food Minister G. R. Anil had met Union Food Minister Piyush Goyal to complain against the withdrawal of the scheme. Ration dealers also questioned the decision, citing that it had an impact on their margins.

"The price has not risen, it is stable," Mr. Chopra said and added that the retail prices of rice had fallen by 0.42% in the last week. When asked about the complaint of ration dealers, he said stopping one scheme would not put them in distress. He added that the Centre was providing a margin of ₹90 per quintal of foodgrains.

APPEAL

Master DAKSH THARANI, Elder Son of Naveen Tharani 9 years admitted in Mazumdar Shaw Medical Center, is suffering from Thalassemia Major. The only curative treatment is bone Marrow Transplant. We are planning TCR Alpha/Beta and CD 45RA Depletion Therapy for this patient. The estimated cost of transplant **Rs. 37,80,000/-**.

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Daksh Tharani. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. **044-42044165 & 044-35691848,** Mobile: **9884607377,** Email: **savepoorlives@gmail.com**. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

SC backs right to free speech of 2 lawyers up for judgeship

Collegium refuses to drop the name of R. John Sathyan and Somasekhar Sundaresan; it also reiterates the names of advocates Amitesh Banerjee and Sakya Sen for Calcutta HC judgeship

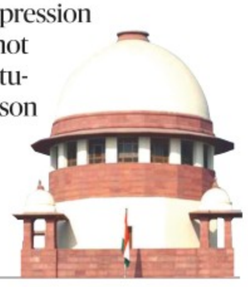
Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium, in separate resolutions published on Thursday, backed the right to free speech of two lawyers recommended for appointments as judges in the Madras and Bombay High Courts.

"All citizens have the right to free speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. Expression of views by a candidate does not disentitle him to hold a constitutional office so long as the person proposed for judgeship is a person of competence, merit and integrity," the collegium of Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justices S.K. Kaul and K.M. Joseph said.

It refused to drop the name of advocate R. John Sathyan for the Madras High Court merely because the government received an Intelligence Bureau report that he had shared a Web portal's article critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and another regarding the death of a medical aspirant who was unable to clear NEET, while portraying it as a "political betrayal".

> All citizens have the right to free speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. Expression of views by a candidate does not disentitle him to hold a constitutional office so long as the person proposed for judgeship is a person of competence, merit and integrity
>
> **SC COLLEGIUM**



'Integrity intact'

Instead, the collegium, in its January 17 resolution, said Mr. Sathyan should get precedence over all the other names recommended by the collegium on that day. It also drew the Centre's attention to the part of the same IB report which said Mr. Sathyan did not have any "overt political leanings" and his integrity was intact.

On Bombay High Court advocate Somasekhar Sundaresan, the government had deduced that he was a "highly biased opinionated person" from his social media posts. It accused Mr. Sundaresan of being "selectively critical on social media on the important policies, initiatives and directions of the government".

'Part of public debate'

Sharply contradicting the government's opinion on the lawyer, the collegium said, on the other hand, there was "no material to indicate that the expressions used by the candidate [Mr. Sundaresan] are suggestive of his links with any political party with strong ideological leanings". In fact, the issues discussed by Mr. Sundaresan in his posts were part of public debate in the media, the judges' body said.

The collegium reiterated the names of advocates Amitesh Banerjee and Sakya Sen for Calcutta High Court judgeships. It had recommended these two names four years ago in December 2018. The government returned them in November 2022 without citing "fresh material or ground" for its objection.

Draft IT rules surreptitious assault on free speech: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The amendment to the draft Information Technology (IT) Rules that asks social media companies to take down news articles that have been deemed "fake" by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) is "a surreptitious assault on free speech", the Congress said on Thursday, demanding its withdrawal.

Addressing a press conference, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said IT rules for the Narendra Modi government meant "image tailoring" rules.

He said the amendment essentially meant that the PIB's fact-checking unit had become a "judge" in taking down content which might not suit the Modi government's image.

If the Modi government "fact-checks" online news, who will "fact-check" it, Mr. Khera asked. He said, "Muzzling the Internet and censoring online content through PIB is the Modi government's definition of fact checking."

"In an unprecedented move, which smacks of the Orwellian 'Big Brother Syndrome', the Modi government has anointed itself to be the judge, jury and executioner of online content regulation," he said.

BBC documentary on Modi is 'propaganda' and reflects 'colonial mindset', says MEA

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

A documentary by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) that revealed that the United Kingdom government had carried out an investigation into the 2002 Gujarat riots is a "propaganda piece" that reflects a "colonial mindset", the External Affairs Ministry said on Thursday.

Responding to questions on the documentary that revisited the riots and several other related cases, including alleged police inaction against mobs and the murder of former Gujarat Home Minister Haren Pandya, Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the Indian authorities would not like to "dignify" the documentary.

"The bias, the lack of objectivity, and frankly a continuing colonial mindset, is blatantly visible. If anything, this film or documentary is a reflection on the agency and individuals that are peddling this narrative again," he said.

The film, *India: The Modi Question*, shows that under the Prime Ministership of Tony Blair, the U.K. conducted an investigation into the riots, whose casualties included at least three Indian-origin British citizens.

> Let me just make it very clear that we think this is a propaganda piece designed to push a particular discredited narrative
>
> **ARINDAM BAGCHI**
> Spokesperson, MEA

"These were very serious claims that Chief Minister Modi had played a proactive part in pulling back the police and in tacitly encouraging the Hindu extremists," former U.K. Foreign Secretary Jack Straw is shown stating in the documentary.

Mr. Bagchi added: "Let me just make it very clear that we think this is a propaganda piece designed to push a particular discredited narrative."

Though the documentary was not screened by the BBC in India, various social media platforms were flooded with snippets shared by viewers from abroad.

In response to a query from *The Hindu*, a BBC spokesperson said, "The documentary on YouTube was not uploaded by the BBC. As is standard practice, we follow procedure to have illegal uploads of any BBC content removed."

The organisation also defended the film saying it was "rigorously researched".

Don't agree, says Sunak

The documentary was taken up by Pakistan-origin lawmaker Imran Hussain at the House of Commons who described the 2002 riots as a "grave act of ethnic cleansing".

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, in response, said, "The U.K. government's position on this has been clear and long-standing and has not changed. Of course, we don't tolerate persecution anywhere, but I am not sure I would agree with the characterisation the gentleman has put forward."

(With inputs from Aroon Deep)

Collegium recommends names for three HCs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium has recommended the elevation of lawyers and judicial officers to the High Courts of Madras, Karnataka and Allahabad.

In resolutions published on Thursday, the collegium approved the proposal for the elevation of advocates Vijaykumar Adagouda Patil, Rajesh Rai Kallangala and Tajali Moulasab Nadaf as judges of the Karnataka High Court.

It also recommended to the government the names of nine lawyers – Prashant Kumar, Syed Qamar Hasan Rizvi, Manish Kumar Nigam, Manjive Shukla, Anish Kumar Gupta, Nand Prabha Shukla, Arun Kumar Singh Deshwal, Kshitij Shailendra and Vinod Diwakar – for elevation to the Allahabad High Court.

The collegium has recommended three judicial officers and five advocates for elevation as judges of the Madras High Court. The judicial officers are Periyasamy Vadamalai, Ramachandran Kalaimathi and K. Govindarajan Thilakavadi.

The advocates are Venkatachari Lakshminarayanan, Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri, Pillaipakkam Bahukutumbi Balaji, Ramaswamy Neelakandan and Kandhasami Kulandaivelu Ramakrishnan.

Air India bans Shankar Mishra for four months

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Air India on Thursday announced a flying ban of four months on Shankar Mishra, who urinated on a woman co-traveller on a New York-Delhi flight in November. The decision could trigger a similar ban by other airlines.

"The three-member internal committee has concluded that Shankar Mishra is covered under the definition of unruly passenger and is banned from flying for a period of four months as per the relevant provisions of the Civil Aviation Requirements," it said.

Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre
(A Regd. Society of Govt. of Karnataka)
Major Sandeep Unnikrishna Road, Near Yelahanka
Attur Layout, Bengaluru - 560 064. Phone : 080 - 6735 5000.

No. : KSNDMC/ACT/13/2020 Date : 18-01-2023

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

KSNDMC invites tenders for the following through e-procurement portal

1) KSNDMC/TRG-TWS/02A/2022 for Supply, Installation and Comprehensive Annual maintenance of Telemetric rain gauge stations in Karnataka.

2) KSNDMC/TRG-TWS/02B/2022 for Refurbishment and Comprehensive Annual maintenance of Telemetric rain gauge stations in Karnataka.

3) KSNDMC/TRG-TWS/02C/2022 for Supply, Installation and Comprehensive Annual maintenance of Telemetric rain gauge stations with camera in Karnataka.

The tender document and details on pre bid meeting and Last Date for Submission can be obtained on E-procurement Portal of GoK. https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/- Director

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान
JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POST GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान)
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family welfare)
भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
धन्वंतरि नगर, पुडुचेरी / Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry- 605 006
Website: www.jipmer.edu.in, Phone: 0413 – 2296022

No. JIP/Admn-I/Dep./1(37)/PDY/2023 Dated : 20.01.2023

The Director, JIPMER, Puducherry invites application from eligible officers of Central / State / U.T. Governments / Statutory / Autonomous Bodies / Government Universities / Government Research and Development Organizations etc., for filling the various Group 'A' posts on Deputation basis given as under:

S. No.	Name of the post	Pay Matrix (as per 7th CPC)	Vacancy
1	Senior Financial Advisor	Level-13	1
2	Controller of Examinations	Level-12	1

The format of the application, other details regarding pay scale, age, qualification, experience and other conditions of eligibility etc. for the above posts are available in the JIPMER website "www.jipmer.edu.in".

The last date for receipt of filled-in application is 20.03.2023 till 4.30 P.M.

DIRECTOR

Tender Notice
Ref No. 2023_SPEM_548945_1

Kudumbashree invites E-Tender for the supply of premix to all Nutrimix units.

For further information Please visit, www.kudumbashree.org/tenders

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
WBSETCL
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in

NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/ET/22-23/25 Date: 20.01.2023

The Chief Engineer (Procurement) invites e-Tender for procurement of 33 kV, 874A Earthing Transformer (2nd call). Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents by registering themselves on the e-tendering portal (https://wbtenders.gov.in or https://etender.wb.nic.in) and thereby downloading the bidding documents from 20.01.2023, 12:00 Noon and shall be submitted (online) up to 04:00 P.M., 21.02.2023. Visit the Company's website- www.wbsetcl.in for details.

ICA-T1296(3)/2023

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
UNIT-VIII, BHUBANESWAR
e-mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM
DESIGNED TO EXCEL

e-Procurement Notice No. 39 /OCCL/2022-23 (on-line)

Type of Work :- Providing cement concrete lining, renovation of structures, re-sectioning & strengthening of canal embankment from RD 00 Km to 60.00 Km of Tamasa Main Canal.

Total No of Works :- 01 (One) No.
Period of completion :- 18 (Eighteen) calendar months.

Bid Identification No.	Amount put to Tender (Approx.) (Rs.in lakhs)	Bid Security (through on-line transfer) (in Rs.)	Availability of Tender (On-line)	Submission of Tender (On-line)
OCC-BGP/ 01/2022-23	9013.95 Lakhs	90,14,000/-	20.01.2023, 10.00 AM to 09.02.2023, 5.30 PM	20.01.2023, 10.00 AM to 09.02.2023, 5.30 PM

Procurement Officer - Managing Director, OCC Ltd., Bhubaneswar
Date of opening of the Technical Bid: 10.02.2023, 12.00 Noon
Further detail can be seen from the Govt. website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

Managing Director

CAD-4549 OIPR-34120/11/0037/2223

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA email : serwsbd2003@yahoo.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA.

No: **e-Procurement Notice for Bridge work** Date:

1. Name of the Work : Construction of H.L.Bridge over river Basandhara at 1st Km on Karamuhan to Kumudabali road in the district of Rayagada under BSY (Balance Work)
2. Class of Contractor : "A" & "Special" Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : Rs.790.61 Lakhs (Approximately)
4. Details projects as per Annexure attached :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCSBD - Online - 42/2022-23	24.01.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	13.02.2023 up to 05.30 P.M.	10.02.2023 up to 2.00 P.M.	14.02.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site : https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda.

O-1661: OIPR-25182/11/0054/2223

Indian Institute of Information Technology
Sri City, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh
(An Institute of National Importance under an Act of Parliament)

Advertisement

IIIT Sri City, Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh invites tender for "Architectural, Structural, MEP & HVAC Design Consultancy services for various Buildings and Infrastructure Development (Hostel, Indoor Stadium, Faculty housing etc) as per the standards (IIITS/NIT/INFRA DEVELOPMENT/2023/01)

For further details visit : www.iiits.ac.in

Sd/- Registrar

RAJASTHAN URJA VIKAS NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking)
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - U40104RJ2015SGC048738
Regd. Office - Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005
Work Office: 1st Floor, Hudco Bhawan, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005
E-mail:SE.PP.RUVNL@RAJASTHAN.GOV.IN; Website: www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/ruvnl

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online bids are invited to procure 450 MW power w.e.f. 06:00 hrs to 20:00 hrs from 1st February 2023 to 28th February 2023 on short term basis from various Generators/ State Utilities/ CPPs/ Distribution Licensees/ SEBs/ Trading Licensees as per specification under TN-18/RUVNL/FY 2022-23. May visit website www.mstcecommerce.com / www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/ruvnl for further details.

RUVN/PR-45(2023)
Raj.samwad/C/22/13511

Superintending Engineer (PP)

NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001

Notification No.486 Date : 18/01/2023
Tel.:(0674) 2380950; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in ; Email: drugs-osmcl@gov.in
Bid Ref.No.: OSMCL/2023-24/DRUGS-DHS-ACD-GR-II/03 Date:19/01/2023

Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for **Supply of Anti Cancer Items (Group-II) as per the particulars mentioned below :**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	19/01/2023, 3 PM	
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id - drugs-osmcl@gov.in	23/01/2023, up to 5:00 PM	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		25/01/2023, 3 PM	14/02/2023, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee and EMD amount as per section-IV of tender document	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		15/02/2023, 10 AM	21/02/2023, 11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	21/02/2023, 11:30 AM	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

SD/-
Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha

CAD-4556 OIPR-10112/11/0052/2223

NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001

Notification No.490 Date : 18/01/2023
Tel.:(0674) 2380950; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in ; Email: drugs-osmcl@gov.in
Bid Ref.No.: OSMCL/2023-24/DRUGS-DHS-GEN-GR-I/02 Date:20/01/2023

Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for **Supply of Drugs & Medical Consumables (Group-I) as per the particulars mentioned below :**

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	20/01/2023, 3 PM	
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id - drugs-osmcl@gov.in	25/01/2023, up to 5:00 PM	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		31/01/2023, 3 PM	20/02/2023, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee and EMD amount as per section-IV of tender document	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		21/02/2023, 10 AM	28/02/2023, 11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	28/02/2023, 11:30 AM	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

SD/-
Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha

CAD-4557 OIPR-10112/11/0054/2223

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KARNATAKA SLUM DEVELOPMENT BOARD
No.55, Abhaya Complex, Risaldar Street, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560 020 Ph: 080-23460085

No: KSDB/Commr/CE/KKRDH/2022-23/675 Dated:17-01-2023

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT)

TWO COVER SYSTEM (SHORT TERM TENDER) (Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

The Karnataka Slum Development Board (KSDB) Bengaluru invites item rate tenders for the work of providing Infrastructure works (1263+250) PMAY HFA houses (Drain & Roads, External Electrification, Water Supply, Sanitary works at Chincholi Town, Kalaburgi Dist under 2022-23 KKRD Macro scheme from the eligible Class-1 registered KPWD/CPWD contractors).

Amount put to tender : Rs. 991.59 Lakhs EMD Amount : Rs. 17.70 Lakhs

Calendar of Events for Tender Process are as follows:-

Time and Date of Pre Bid Conference	25/01/2023 at 11:00 AM
Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders in Portal	01/02/2023 at 04:00 PM
Time and Date of Opening of Tender Documents (Qualification Information)	03/02/2023 at 4:00 PM
Time and Date of Opening of Financial Bid	Time and Date will be Intimated for the eligible bidders
Place of Receiving and Opening of Tender Documents	Office of the Chief Engineer Karnataka Slum Development Board #55, 1" Floor Abhaya Complex, Risaldar Street Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020 Phone: +91 80 23564651, 23462436. Email id: ksdbtd2@gmail.com Web Site https://karunadu.karnataka.gov.in/ksdb

If there are any changes to the above notification, it will be published in e-procurement portal only. Tender Documents, schedule, specifications are available on the website: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in Tender form fees & EMD details are available on the e-procurement portal. EMD and tender processing fees shall be paid using e-procurement payment modes only. Tender application must be accompanied by earnest money deposit specified for the works and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of tender date.

Sd/- Commissioner
Karnataka Slum Development Board, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/4176/AKAR/22-23

INBRIEF

PM inaugurates two new Metro lines in Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that while the world's biggest economies were in turmoil, India was providing subsidies and free rations to over 80 crore citizens. He was speaking at the inauguration of two new Mumbai Metro lines – Line 2A (Dahisar to Andheri West D.N. Nagar) and Line 7 (Dahisar East to Andheri East), the PM SVANidhi Yojana (a loan facility for street vendors); and 'Hinduhridaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Aapla Dawakhana' clinics that will provide essential medical services. Mr. Modi also laid the foundation stone for seven sewage treatment plants to be built at a cost of ₹17,200 crore and the redevelopment of three hospitals.

10 people killed in truck-van collision in Maharashtra

Ten people were killed after a truck collided with a van on the Mumbai-Goa highway in Raigad district of Maharashtra on Thursday. The accident took place at 4.45 a.m. near Repoli village in Raigad, about 130 km from Mumbai. The victims were travelling in the van to Guhagar town in Ratnagiri district, Superintendent of Police Somnath Gharge said. The truck was going towards Mumbai. The victims were residents of Hedvi village in Guhagar. A four-year-old boy, a 12-year-old girl and three women were among those who lost their lives. The truck driver has been arrested.

Army to get first Apache attack helicopter in Feb. 2024

The first fuselage for the Indian Army's contract for six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters has rolled out of the Tata Boeing Aerospace Ltd. (TBAL) facility in Hyderabad, the joint venture between Tata Advanced Systems Ltd. and the aircraft manufacturer Boeing. The first Apache is scheduled to be delivered to the Army in February 2024. Training of Army pilots and technicians has commenced in the U.S. last December, a defence official said. The first fuselage was handed over to the Director-General of Army Aviation, Lt. Gen. A.K. Suri, before it was dispatched by the TBAL to Arizona in the U.S. for final assembly, an official said.

32 passengers miss Scoot's Amritsar-Singapore flight

As many as 32 passengers missed their Scoot flight, after its departure from Amritsar to Singapore was rescheduled on Wednesday. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) sought a report from the airline on the incident, officials said on Thursday. A Scoot spokesperson said that due to inclement weather conditions affecting departures, the flight was rescheduled to depart Amritsar at 3.45 p.m. instead of 7.55 p.m., on Wednesday. A senior official at the Amritsar airport said there were around 300 passengers for the flight. He added that 263 passengers who boarded the flight, had reported at the airport on time. Scoot is the low-cost subsidiary of Singapore Airlines.

Women officers in command soon

A total of 244 of them are being considered by the Army for promotion from the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel to Colonel against 108 vacancies and the first set of such postings is expected by January-end; selection is expected to ensure gender parity as they will be posted to command assignments

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Army has begun the process for selection of women officers for command postings in the rank of Colonel, which has so far been the domain of male officers.

According to sources, a Special No. 3 Selection Board is being conducted for promotion of women officers from the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel to Colonel from January 9 to 22. This flows from the Supreme Court judgment in 2021 upholding an earlier judgment granting permanent commission and command postings to women officers in all arms and services other than combat.

"A total of 244 women officers are being considered for promotion against 108 vacancies, from 1992 batch to 2006 batch, in various Arms and Services (Engineers, Signals, Army Air Defence, Intelligence Corps, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Electrical & Mechanical Engineers)," an Army source said.

At the culmination of the Selection Board, the 108 women officers who are declared fit will be under consideration to be posted on various command assignments. "The first set of such postings will be issued by end of January 2023," the source said.

Women Army officers after the Supreme Court judgment allowing them permanent commission on February 17, 2020. R.V. MOORTHY

The vacancies for this Special No. 3 Selection Board were released by the government to promote affected women officers to ensure gender parity in the Army, the source said.

Elaborating, the source said a total of 60 affected women officers have been called as observers for the Selection Board to ensure fair conduct and clarify their apprehensions, if any.

Following judicial intervention, the Army granted permanent commission (PC) to women officers on a par with their male counterparts. "All women officers granted permanent commission are undergoing special training courses and challenging military assignments to empower them for higher leadership roles in the Army," the source said, adding that permanent commission to women officers in junior batches had also commenced, in which they are considered for permanent commission in their 10th year of service.

For the first time, five women officers cleared the Defence Services Staff Course (DSSC) and the Defence Services Technical Staff Course (DSTSC) examination last year, which is held annually in September. The five women officers will undergo a one-year course and be given adequate weightage while being considered for command appointments, the source added.

Army chief General Manoj Pandey had announced last week that the Army would soon induct women officers into the Corps of Artillery.

Collegium system will continue, says Law Minister

The Hindu Bureau
PUDUCHERRY

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju on Thursday said the collegium system of appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and the High Courts will prevail in the absence of alternative mechanisms and legislation enacted by Parliament.

At an event to lay the foundation stone for a lawyers' chamber at the Integrated Court Complex in Puducherry, Mr. Rijiju said some people had "jumped the gun" and raised questions on the intention of the government after he wrote to the Chief Justice of India on having a very "structured" collegium system as "guided by the observations and directions of the Constitution Bench".

"It is my duty as Law Minister to carry forward the order of the Constitution Bench. Some people are trying to see a problem in everything and create controversy. As long as the Collegium system prevails, as long as an alternative system is not in place and as far as Parliament does not bring [in] a new system, we must carry forward with the present system and that system needs certain updation and restructuring as per the wishes of the Constitution Bench. I have already taken certain positive steps by having [a] consultation with CJI," Mr. Rijiju said.

Air India may borrow some artworks after govt. transfer to national gallery

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Air India plans to borrow some of the over 4,000 paintings, sculptures and other artefacts, including works by M.F. Husain and S.H. Raza and Salvador Dali ashtrays, to recreate the airline's history at its new office. But concerns remain over the government's decision to transfer the vast repertoire of the airline's artworks to the National Gallery of Modern Arts (NGMA).

On Wednesday, the Civil Aviation Ministry signed a memorandum of understanding with the Culture Ministry in a symbolic handing over of the artworks that will be housed at the NGMA after they are transferred "in six to seven months" from Mumbai where they are stored in a godown at Air India's office in Nariman Point.

These artworks were under the charge of a special purpose vehicle of the government which houses all the assets of the erstwhile national carrier, which were not part of the privatisation deal under which Tata Sons gained the ownership of Air India last year. "We would like to loan back some of the artworks for our new office in Gurgaon to tell the story of Air India and its rich history," its CEO, Campbell Wilson, told *The Hindu*.

An ash tray designed for Air India by Salvador Dali.

It is learnt that the airline had expressed its intent to keep with itself all the artworks which were a result of its founder JRD Tata's vision to showcase "a little of India" at its booking offices across the world at a time the erstwhile Tata Airlines was expanding its global reach.

Though officially the government was in charge of the artworks, it is Air India which has been responsible for its custody even after the airline's privatisation.

Cataloguing process

A senior official of the NGMA declined to provide a timeline over which the artworks will be brought to Delhi, and said that they will now start the process of cataloguing them.

The artworks were collected over six decades between early 1950s and 2007 and includes those by India's best-known artistes such as M.F. Husain, S.H. Raza, S. Gaitonde, K.A. Ara, Anjolie Ela Menon, Arpana Caur and B. Prabha. There are stone sculptures dating back to the 9th century, woodwork, a collection of exquisite clocks and a costume collection.

The heyday of the airline had artefacts such as ashtrays designed by surrealist Salvador Dali, which were meant to be gifted to first-class passengers, or menu cards painted by B. Prabha.

But some ask whether the NGMA is the right place to house the artworks.

"An institution like NGMA would be interested in modern arts, which is their mandate. But Air India's art collection goes beyond modern art. Air India's collection is one of the richest in India and includes nearly 4,000 artefacts. The NGMA would be lost if they were to take all of the works. They wouldn't know what to do with it. They may also have space constraints to store all the works," says art historian Meera Dass, who was tasked with preparing an inventory of the works owned by Air India in 2018.

"What we really need is a dedicated aviation museum in the country considering we were early entrants to the sky market alongside the U.S., the U.K. and Germany," Ms. Dass says.

COVID-19 did not force girls to exit school early: study

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The number of girls who are out of school continued to decline across age groups in 2022 from the 2018 figures, according to the Annual School Education Report (ASER), 2022 of the non-governmental organisation Pratham. This lays to rest fears that economic stress on families during COVID-19 will force them to withdraw girls from schools and push them into early marriages.

Schools have been successful in retaining students at the secondary level.

In 2022, the all-India figure for girls in the 11-14 age group not enrolled in school stood at 2% as against 4.1% in 2018. In other words, the proportion of girls in this age band who were out of school dropped by half. This figure is around 4% only in Uttar Pradesh and is lower in all other States.

The decrease in the proportion of girls not enrolled in school is even sharper among girls in the 15-16 age group, which stood at 7.8% in 2022 as against 13.5% in 2018, which is almost a 40% drop.

Three States

Only three States have more than 10% of girls in this age group out of school – Madhya Pradesh (17%), Uttar Pradesh (15%), and Chhattisgarh (11.2%).

The States that are relatively poor in school enrolments have also seen a steady rise in number of girls in schools. Uttar Pradesh, which had 7.9% girls in the 11-14 age group out of school in 2018 saw the figure drop to 4.1%; whereas older girls saw a sharper decline from 22.2% to 15% during the period. In Haryana, out-of-school girls in the 11-14 age group dropped from 2.3% to 1% and those between the ages of 15 and 16 declined from 6.8% to 4.7% over the past four years.

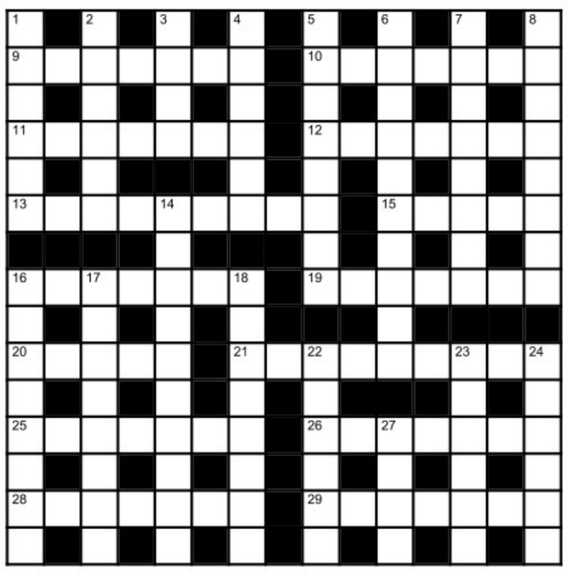
"This shows that there was a clear demand for schooling, which cut across age groups, gender and States. It also shows that the push for secondary education through Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan is bearing fruit. Though it is difficult to retain students in secondary school, but our study shows schools have been successful in doing so," Wilima Wadhwa, Director, ASER Centre, Pratham, says.

TH CROSSWORD + 13767

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Known approach to get result (7)
10 Crown's guaranteed with liberty (7)
11 The French are in range in craft (7)
12 Guy allowed to cross Middle-Eastern shelter (7)
13 Staying power to end having lost latitude in nuclear explosion (9)
15 Nothing for one blemish of a film, say (5)
16 Horridly done, legally dumping first lover (7)
19 If female is sacked, worthlessness can be converted as advantage (7)
20 Mostly uniform colour everywhere (5)
21 Surveillance needs sixth sense, time to cross one working (9)
25 Relaxed with you at the end, in new lodge building (7)
26 Leading Tamil star's goal is to move one ahead creating huge waves (7)
28 Brie processed by Scotsman? No some ancient people (7)
29 Active goon slyly stealing article (2,3,2)

Down

1 Top frigate, close to crash the front deck of the ship (6)
2 Escort at the end after man leaves (6)
3 Paying guest is working inside with perfume (4)
4 Elementary particle bounced losing a circle. Neutrino primarily (6)
5 Torch fuel empty on morning, getting escort (8)
6 Son aims to remove walls of lipid, reconstruct quietly (10)
7 Masses in RNA producer that miraculously uncoil around middle of cell in reverse (8)
8 People count in the mind (8)
14 Wrap in gold plate at the tips at home and its used for making chapati (7,3)
16 Dial Ola to pick up Kaufman first to develop organic compounds (8)
17 Presented after due? Rubbish (8)
18 Youth leader releases woman from holding and abandoning (8)
22 Snake language (6)
23 Surprised at morning to receive Arizona journalist (6)
24 Media guy on limitless steroids and is reeling (6)
27 By one/two as I picked up (4)

SUDOKU

							9	
	8		2	9			6	
		1	4	7				5
1	2	6				5		
7								1
		3				9	2	7
8				1	3	4		
	7			4	2		1	
	1							

No.SS5684 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

F	E	A	T	H	E	R	B	E	D	S				
A		P		A		O		C		T		V		F
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I		E		K		O		E		U		R		A
L	E	A	R	N		T	E	L	E	M	E	T	E	R
Y				E		I		O				U		
M	U	M	S	Y		C	A	N	T	A	L	O	U	P
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N	A	K	E	D	N	E	S	S		A	M	O	U	R
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F	R	O	N	T	D	O	O	R		P	A	S	T	E
A		V		O		T		O		E		W		V
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E		R		E		C		H		L		M		R
				S	Y	S	T	E	M	A	T	I	S	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	5	3	6	2	1	4	9
1	3	4	9	7	8	5	2	6
6	9	2	5	4	1	7	3	8
3	4	6	2	9	7	8	5	1
2	1	8	6	3	5	9	7	4
5	7	9	8	1	4	3	6	2
8	6	3	4	5	9	2	1	7
9	5	7	1	2	6	4	8	3
4	2	1	7	8	3	6	9	5

FAITH

Questions for Lord Rama

Kooratazhvan, in his Atimanusha Stava, speaks of Lord Narayana's amazing deeds during His avataras, said Elayavilli Sriram, in a discourse. He asks Rama how He could have believed that a golden deer existed. After Sita was abducted by Ravana, Rama could not locate Her. And yet, He gave moksha to Jatayu. How could Rama, who had taken an avatara as a human being, grant moksha to anyone? An incident in the life of Nampillai shows this was a question asked on another occasion too. Nampillai had many sishyas. Naduvil Thiruveedhi Pillai Bhattar was envious of Nampillai's following.

One day Thiurveedhi Pillai Bhattar went to the king's court. The king asked him a question. He wanted to know how Rama could grant moksha to Jatayu. Did He do it as a human being, or as God? Thiruveedhi Pillai Bhattar did not know the answer. Present with him in the court was Pinbazhagiya Perumal Jeer, a disciple of Nampillai. Thiruveedhi Pillai Bhattar asked him how Nampillai would have answered the king's question. Pinbazhagiya Perumal Jeer replied that Rama always spoke the truth. When such a person gave his word, his words would come true. So Rama granted moksha as a human being. While Rama needed no one's help, He sought the help of Sugreeva. At least if He had asked Vali for help, it would have been understandable, for Vali was powerful and was the king. But Sugreeva was not as strong as Vali. Moreover, Sugreeva was not sure of Rama's strength. Was all this necessary, wonders Kooratazhvan. The answer, of course, is that Vali had strayed from the path of dharma, and so Rama did not seek his help.

JENIN

Two killed in Israel raid in Jenin, says Palestinian Health Ministry

AP

Two Palestinians were killed by gunfire early on Thursday during an Israeli Army raid in the flashpoint West Bank city of Jenin, the Palestinian Health Ministry said. The Ministry said Jawad Farid Bawaqna was killed by a bullet to the chest, while Adham Mohammed Bassem Jabareen was hit in the upper abdomen. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S. debt ceiling: govt. touches limit amid partisan standoff

AFP

The U.S. government hit its $31.4 trillion borrowing limit on Thursday, amid a standoff between the House of Representatives and Democrats. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said that her department had begun using extraordinary cash management measures that could stave off default until June 5. REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO

Bird statue fetches $100,000 as Musk auctions Twitter HQ items

AFP

A Twitter bird statue fetched $100,000 on Wednesday as Elon Musk auctioned off furniture, kitchen equipment and more from the tech firm's downtown San Francisco headquarters. The online auction of "surplus corporate office assets of Twitter" lasted slightly more than 24 hours, Heritage Global Partners auction service said. AFP

ASTANA

Kazakh President dissolves Parliament, calls March election

REUTERS

Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev dissolved the Central Asian country's Lower House of Parliament on Thursday and set an early election for March 19, his office said. The announcement comes a year after Kazakhstan descended into chaos with deadly riots that killed 238 people in January 2022. AFP

PM Jacinda Ardern to quit; says 'not enough in the tank'

'I am human. We give as much as we can for as long as we can and then it's time,' says the New Zealand leader; the country will choose its next Prime Minister in a general election on October 14

Agence France-Presse
WELLINGTON

New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, a global figurehead of progressive politics, shocked the country on Thursday by announcing she would resign from office in a matter of weeks.

The 42-year-old – who steered the country through natural disasters, the COVID pandemic, and its worst-ever terror attack – said she no longer had "enough in the tank".

"I am human. We give as much as we can for as long as we can and then it's time. And for me, it's time," she said at a meeting of members of her Labour Party. Ms. Ardern said she would step down no later than February 7, less than three years after winning a landslide election to secure her second term in office.

Since that 2020 peak of "Jacindamania", Ms. Ardern's government has struggled – its popularity hampered by soaring inflation, a looming recession and a resurgent conservative Opposition.

Stepping down: Jacinda Ardern announcing in Wellington on Thursday that she will step down as PM by February 7. GETTY IMAGES

"I believe that leading a country is the most privileged job anyone could ever have, but also one of the more challenging," Ms. Ardern said.

Ms. Ardern won international acclaim for her empathetic handling of the 2019 Christchurch mosque massacre, in which 51 Muslim worshippers were killed and another 40 wounded.

Later that year she was praised for her decisive leadership during the fatal White Island volcano eruption.

On Thursday, she cited her government's actions on housing affordability, climate change and child poverty as further sources of pride.

Featured on the covers of British *Vogue* and *Time* magazine, there was a perception that Ms. Ardern was more popular abroad than she was at home.

At her peak she was a domestic force, but her government has been steadily sliding in the polls over the last year.

New Zealand will choose its next Prime Minister in a general election held on October 14, Ms. Ardern announced. She said she would continue to serve as an electorate MP until then.

Her departure leaves a void at the top of the Labour party, with her deputy Grant Robertson swiftly ruling out a tilt at the leadership.

Although recent polls indicate a centre-right coalition will likely win the election, Ms. Ardern said that was not the reason for her resignation.

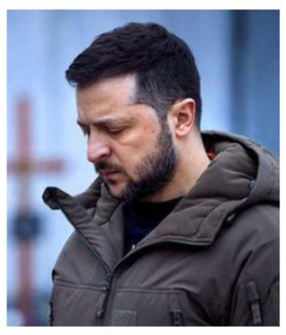
The U.S. ambassador to New Zealand, Tom Udall, said Ardern was an "incredible world leader".

Zelensky urges Western allies to send more tanks

Associated Press
DAVOS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky bared frustration on Thursday on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum's annual gathering in Davos about not obtaining enough tanks from some Western countries to help his country defend itself from Russia.

Speaking by video link at a breakfast with U.S. Sen. Chris Coons, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Mr. Zelensky offered a veiled critique of countries like Germany, Poland and the United States – crucial supporters of Ukraine – that have nonetheless hesitated about sending tanks.



Volodymyr Zelensky

Mr. Zelensky bemoaned a "lack of specific weaponry" and said that to win the war, "we cannot just do it with motivation and morale."

"And I would like to thank again for the assistance from our partners," he said at the Victor Pinchuk Foundation breakfast. "But at the same time, there are times where we shouldn't hesitate or we shouldn't compare when someone says, 'I will give tanks if someone else will also share his tanks.'"

Mr. Zelensky also said air defence was "our weakness" in light of targeted Russian strikes, including use of Iranian-made drones, and reiterated his call for supplies of long-range artillery to fire at Russian forces in Ukrainian territory – not fire into Russia itself.

For months, Ukraine has sought to be supplied with heavier tanks, including the U.S. Abrams and the German-made Leopard 2 tanks, but Western leaders have been treading carefully.

Poland has expressed readiness to provide a company of Leopard tanks, but has said it would only do so as part of a larger international coalition.

Russia warns of escalation if West supplies more arms

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

The Kremlin on Thursday warned of escalation in Ukraine if the West gives the pro-Western country more weapons capable of striking Russia.

The warning comes on the eve of a key donor meeting as Western countries consider sending more powerful weapons to Ukraine. On Friday, the United States will gather its allies at its airbase in Ramstein for a new round of talks.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov spoke after Moscow's ambassador to the United States Anatoly Antonov said Russia would retaliate if Ukraine uses Western-supplied weapons to target Russia.

Nationwide strikes hit France as unions fight pension plan

Reuters
PARIS

French train drivers, teachers and refinery workers were among those who walked off their jobs on Thursday in a nationwide day of strikes against government plans to raise the retirement age by two years to 64.

The strikes, and protests expected across the country, are a major test for President Emmanuel Macron, who says his pension reform plan, which opinion polls show is hugely unpopular, is vital to ensure the system does not go bust.

The challenge for unions is to transform opposition to the reform – and anger over a cost-of-living crisis – into a mass social protest which would eventually force the government to change tack.

"We need a lot of people to join the protests," Laurent Berger, head of France's largest union, CFDT, told *BFM TV*. "People are against this reform ... we need to show it [in the streets]."

Fight for life: Demonstrators walking with a banner which reads as 'for retirement gold and platinum' during a rally on Thursday. AFP

At stake

For Mr. Macron, at stake are his reformist credentials, both at home and with his European Union peers, as well as keeping public spending in check.

Pushing back the retirement age by two years and extending the pay-in period would bring an additional 17.7 billion euros ($19.1 billion) in annual pension contributions, allowing the system to break even by 2027, according to Labour Ministry estimates.

The pension reform still needs to go through Parliament, where Mr. Macron has lost his absolute majority but is hoping to get it passed with the support of conservatives. Unions argue there are other ways to ensure the viability of the pension system.

Critical COVID cases have peaked: China

Reuters
BEIJING

The number of COVID patients needing critical care in China's hospitals has peaked, Health authorities said on Thursday, as millions travelled across the country for long-awaited reunions with families, raising fears of fresh outbreaks.

There has been widespread scepticism over China's official COVID data since it abruptly axed anti-virus controls last month that had shielded China's 1.4 billion people from the disease for three years.

China said on last Saturday that nearly 60,000 people with COVID had died in hospitals between December 8 and January 12.

As travel picks up during the busy Lunar New Year holiday season, as many as 36,000 people could die each day from the disease, experts predict.

S. Africa to hold drills with Russia, China

Agence France-Presse
JOHANNESBURG

South Africa, which has resisted taking sides following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, announced on Thursday it will stage 10-day joint maritime drills with Russia and China next month. The exercises dubbed "Mosi", which translates to "smoke" in the local Tswana language, are scheduled for February 17 to 27, off the port city of Durban and Richards Bay.

It will be the second such exercise involving the three naval forces.

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- Expertise in handling Government/Infrastructure project.

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Email to : electrofusion_fittings@supreme.co.in

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PRASAD SANYAL
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Chief Executive Officer, The Indian Express
VIJAY CHADDA
Chief Executive Officer, A-PAG
ARVIND GUPTA
Co-Founder and Head, Digital India Foundation
SHREYAA KAPOOR
Personal Finance Content Creator
SAYEMA RAHMAN
Radio Jockey and Social Media Influencer
NANDAGOPAL RAJAN
Editor, New Media, Indian Express
ARCHNA VYAS
Deputy Director, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
PRANAY UPADHAYAYA
Senior Anchor, ABP News
SANGHAMITRA MAZUMDAR
Editor, ABP Live , English (Digital)
DEEPAK AJWANI
Editor, ET online
KARAN SINGH CHANDHIOK
Practice Head-Competition Law, Chandhiok & Mahajan
PAVAN DUGGAL
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MURUGAVEL JANAKIRAMAN,
CEO, Bharat Matrimony
RITESH MALIK
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KUNAL SINGLA
Business Head, Amar Ujala Web
RUHAIL AMIN
Senior Editor, Businessworld & exchange4media
WINNERS: E4M- DNPA DIGITAL IMPACT AWARDS 2023
Education: DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing)
Financial Reforms: Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
Health: CoWIN App
Sustainability & Environment protection: CAMPA (e-Green Watch Portal))
Governance & Administrative Reforms: One Nation One Ration Card Yojana
Governance & Administrative Reforms: E-Governance Portal
Ease of Doing Business: GST (Good & Services Tax)
Ease of living: DigiLocker
Women & Child Welfare Reforms: Poshan tracker App
Women & Child Welfare Reforms: Himmat plus App
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INBRIEF

Walmart's PhonePe raises $350 mn at $12-bn valuation

Walmart-owned digital payments app PhonePe said it has raised $350 million at a valuation of $12 billion in a funding round led by PE firm General Atlantic. With this, the valuation of PhonePe has more than doubled in about two years. PhonePe plans to deploy the funds to 'make significant investments in infrastructure and help build financial services offerings at scale.' It also plans to invest in new businesses, including insurance and wealth management. PTI

LIC unveils Jeevan Azad limited premium plan

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced Jeevan Azad, a non-participating, individual, savings life insurance plan. A limited premium payment endowment plan, it is a combination of protection and savings. Besides financial support for the family in the event of death of the life assured during the policy term, the plan takes care of liquidity needs through loan facility. The minimum basic sum assured is ₹2 lakh and the maximum is ₹5 lakh, LIC said.

Sun to acquire U.S.-based Concert Pharma for $576 mn

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited said it will acquire U.S.-based Concert Pharmaceuticals for an upfront payment of $8 per share of common stock in cash, or $576 million in equity value to gain access to an experimental drug for treating patchy baldness. "The acquisition of Concert adds a late-stage, potential best-in-class treatment for Alopecia Areata [patchy baldness) in deuruxolitinib [medication]," said Abhay Gandhi, CEO North America, Sun Pharma.

HUL Q3 net rises 7.9%, FMCG firm eyes 'demand recovery'

Worst of inflation is behind us, says CMD Mehta after company reports ₹2,481 crore profit on a 16.4% jump in total income; HUL to gradually raise royalty to parent Unilever to 3.45% from 2.65%

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL) on Thursday said consolidated net profit rose 7.9% year-on-year to ₹2,481 crore in the third quarter ended December.

Total income climbed 16.4% to ₹15,707 crore, HUL said in a regulatory filing. Total expenses rose to ₹12,225 crore, from ₹10,329 crore.

"We... believe that the worst of inflation is behind us," said CMD Sanjiv Mehta. "This should aid in a gradual recovery of consumer demand," he added.

"We remain focussed on managing our business with agility and continue growing our consumer franchise whilst maintaining margins in a healthy range," Mr. Mehta said.

The HUL board also approved an increase in the royalty and central services arrangement fee to its parent Unilever group for getting technology, trademark licences and services. Royalty and central services fees will rise to 3.45% of turnover in a staggered manner over three years from 2.65% in FY22, the company said.

Initially, there will be a "45 bps increase in effective cost for February to December 2023; 25 bps further increase... for January to December 2024; and an additional 10 bps, from January 2025".

Royalty boost

HUL pays royalty and central services arrangement fees to parent Unilever in exchange for tech, licences and services

- Fees as a percentage of turnover will increase in a staggered manner over 3 years
- Initially, there will be a 45-basis point increase in Feb.
- A rise of 25 bps will kick in from Jan. 2024; the final 10 bps will apply from Jan. 2025

RBI to guide inflation towards 4% target by 2024: officials

Reuters
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India's 2023 monetary policy objective is to hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band and guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024, officials said in an article published in the monthly bulletin on Thursday.

Recent data indicated "the first milestone of monetary policy is being passed - bringing inflation into the tolerance band", the RBI officials including Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra wrote in the article on the 'State of the Economy'.

"The objective during 2023 is to tether inflation therein so that it aligns with the target by 2024 - the second milestone," they added.

Annual retail inflation slowed to 5.72% in December, from 5.88% in the previous month, dipping below 6% for a second straight month after having stayed above the central bank's tolerance band of 2%-6% for 10 months.

The RBI officials said a slowdown in growth with possibilities of recession in swathes of the global economy had become the baseline assessment even as inflation might average well above target but emerging markets were appearing more resilient now. "But their biggest risks... stem from U.S. monetary policy and the U.S. dollar," they added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	%CHANGE
Sensex	60,858	-0.31
US Dollar	81.37	-0.08
Gold	56,475	-0.09
Brent oil	85.72	-2.24

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3463.55	-133.15
Adani Ports	776.05	-10.45
Apollo Hosp	4318.15	-21.65
Asian Paints	2866.15	-79.10
Axis Bank	928.70	4.70
Bajaj Auto	3575.95	-33.95
Bajaj Finserv	1355.15	-12.15
Bajaj Finance	6012.45	13.80
Bharti Airtel	772.00	-4.55
BPCL	349.65	3.60
Britannia Ind	4372.40	-21.30
Cipla	1064.85	1.45
Coal India	223.95	7.10
Divis Lab	3382.00	-6.50
Dr Reddys Lab	4332.20	-32.15
Eicher Motors	3166.70	-10.90
Grasim Ind	1676.90	0.40
HCL Tech	1111.40	-3.75
HDFC	2691.70	4.05
HDFC Bank	1644.10	6.80
HDFC Life	605.25	4.20
Hero MotoCorp	2769.55	-0.40
Hindalco	498.90	-4.05
Hind Unilever	2649.75	-36.45
ICICI Bank	866.15	-3.35
IndusInd Bank	1200.55	-22.45
Infosys	1538.90	-6.50
ITC	332.15	-2.50
JSW Steel	760.05	-7.10
Kotak Bank	1767.30	-31.80
L&T	2273.10	6.60
M&M	1319.55	-2.60
Maruti Suzuki	8501.65	7.60
NestleIndia	19681.10	-142.25
NTPC	168.70	-0.75
ONGC	151.75	2.50
PowerGrid Corp	220.75	1.40
Reliance Ind	2472.05	-2.65
SBI Life	1323.10	12.45
State Bank	589.85	-1.60
Sun Pharma	1040.55	0.45
TataConsumerProduct	738.50	-12.00
Tata Motors	400.75	-7.65
Tata Steel	123.55	1.10
TCS	3373.10	-16.90
Tech Mahindra	1053.30	4.95
Titan	2385.05	-39.05
UltraTech Cement	7212.35	-71.10
UPL	747.55	15.20
Wipro	403.40	0.20

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 19

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.16	81.48
Euro	87.83	88.19
British Pound	100.06	100.46
Japanese Yen (100)	63.20	63.45
Chinese Yuan	11.96	12.01
Swiss Franc	88.56	88.92
Singapore Dollar	61.22	61.48
Canadian Dollar	60.03	60.30
Malaysian Ringitt	18.83	18.92
Australian Dollar	55.84	56.11

Source:Indian Bank

GM's sacked India workers sue unit, CEO Barra for dues

Reuters
NEW DELHI

A union in India has sued General Motors' local unit and its global CEO Mary Barra for failing to pay court-ordered compensation to sacked factory workers, deepening the U.S. automaker's struggles to exit the country years after it shut local operations.

A GM spokesperson said the company remains "very confident" of its legal position, adding: "GM is continuing to explore options for sale of the site."

SC rejects Google's plea against NCLAT order in Android case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday affirmed a National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) order refusing interim relief to Google against a Competition Commission of India (CCI) directive to pay a penalty of ₹1,337.76 crore for "abuse of dominance" in the Android ecosystem.

A three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, however, asked NCLAT to decide the tech giant's appeal against the CCI order by March 31, 2023.

On a request by Google, the court gave the company a week from today to comply with the CCI directives.

The CCI had quantified the penalty levied on Google at the rate of 10% of its average turnover for financial years 2018-19, 2019-2020 and 2020-21.

Google had moved the apex court after NCLAT, in early January, refused to grant any interim relief while listing its appeal for detailed hearing in April. Google had wanted a stay of the CCI order.

Affirming the NCLAT decision, the court observed in its order that it would "suffice to note that findings in the CCI order cannot be held, at the interlocutory stage, to be either without jurisdiction or suffering from manifest error which would have necessitated interference".

'Indian gold exporters must expand avenues'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There is a greater need for Indian gold jewellery exporters to develop new markets as nearly 90% of exports now go to just five countries, a World Gold Council (WGC) report released on Thursday said.

According to the report, over the last few years, the Indian gold market has been grappling with numerous regulatory changes and shifting consumer behaviour. The sector is expected to see further challenges due to changing demographics and a possibility of millennials moving their attention from gold to other luxury items.

But a boost could come in the form of further proposals that would allow advance payments to overseas precious metal suppliers, as well as the formation of the mega common facility centres in the Santacruz Electronics Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ) of Mumbai and Surat, WGC said.

South India continues to dominate gold jewellery consumption, accounting for 40% of the country's total jewellery demand, according to the report.

Hatsun Agro Q3 net shrinks 3% on rise in input costs

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Hatsun Agro Product Ltd. (HAPL) standalone net profit for the quarter ended December contracted by 3% to ₹46.43 crore on account of an increase in milk procurement cost.

"Though we had hiked the selling price of our products, we could not offset the rise in milk procurement cost of about 16% in the quarter to ₹1,203 crore," said an official. Revenue from operations rose 7% to ₹1,695 crore.

SEBI said to probe Nippon MF, Yes Bank

Reuters
MUMBAI

An Indian regulator is investigating investments between Nippon India Mutual Fund, the largest foreign-owned fund in the country, and Yes Bank between 2016 and 2019 for suspected misuse of investors' money, sources said.

At the time, the parent company of the mutual fund was owned by the Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group. Yes Bank was taken over by the central bank in 2020 and sold to a consortium of banks after a dramatic rise in toxic assets.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is probing whether investments by the fund, known at the time as Reliance Mutual Fund, in perpetual bonds of Yes Bank were made as part of a deal whereby in return the lender invested in securities of Anil Ambani group companies, said two sources with direct knowledge of the matter.

SEBI's regulations say the parent of a mutual fund cannot access investors' money either directly or indirectly. If the regulator's probe results in charges against the fund, its officials or the bank, it could lead to penalties.

'Domestic air passenger traffic grew 13.7% in Dec.'

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

India's domestic passenger traffic grew 13.69% year-on-year to 127.35 lakh in December, according to DGCA monthly traffic data.

IndiGo, which carried 69.97 lakh passengers during the month, lost further market share at 55.7%, while Air India and Vistara recorded a market share of 9.1% and 9.2% respectively.

IndiGo retained top ranking in on-time performance at four key metro airports in the country.

'UAE, India discuss rupee non-oil trade'

Reuters
DAVOS

The United Arab Emirates is in early discussions with India to trade non-oil commodities in Indian rupees, Emirati Minister for Foreign Trade Thani Al Zeyoudi said on Thursday.

The UAE signed a wide-ranging free trade agreement last year with India, which, along with China, is among the biggest trade partners for Gulf Arab oil and gas producers, most of whose currencies are pegged to the U.S. dollar.

"They are in the early stages," he said on the discussions, in an interview on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos. The UAE's trade deal with India aims to increase bilateral non-oil trade to $100 billion in the next five years.

The large majority of Gulf trade is conducted in U.S. dollars but countries such as India and China are increasingly seeking to pay in local currencies for various reasons, including lowering transaction costs.

"We have to be realistic, we are planning our budgets based on (U.S.) dollars so it is not an overnight movement."

Sport

Table-topper Mumbai City barrels past a lacklustre NorthEast United

ISL-9

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Table-topper Mumbai City FC decimated NorthEast United 4-0 in an one-sided Indian Super League fixture at the Mumbai Football Arena on Thursday.

Coming into the home game on the back of a hard-fought win against ATK Mohun Bagan, Mumbai City FC dominated from the word go, with Ahmed Jahouh scoring in the fifth minute. There was a deflection from Jahouh's free-kick and the ball edged past goalie Mirshad Kottappunna.

As the fans cheered for the home team, Jorge Pereyra Diaz – returning from a one-match suspension – extended the lead in the 11th minute. Jahouh unsettled the NorthEast United defence and sent across the ball to Lallianzuala Chhangte, but Diaz latched on to it and managed to slide it in at the back post.

On target: Diaz, second right, scores Mumbai City's second.
ISL / FOCUS SPORTS

Placed at the bottom of the table, the Highlanders needed to up their ante against the Islanders to keep their campaign on track, but the side failed to show intent and could not execute any of its plans. To add to its woes, a self-goal by Alex Saji helped Mumbai go three-up in the 15th minute.

Mumbai City kept the momentum going and scored its fourth just before the half-time, with Vinit Rai slotting the ball inside.

Marching orders

Down to 10-men after Wilmar Jordan Gill was given the marching orders just before the half-time, the visiting side made several changes as the game progressed, but nothing could change its fortunes.

The result: Mumbai City FC 4 (Ahmed Jahouh 5, Jorge Diaz 11, Alex Saji 15-og, Vinit Rai 45) bt NorthEast United 0.

Palace holds United thanks to Olise

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Erik ten Hag criticised Manchester United's lack of killer instinct after Michael Olise's superb stoppage-time free-kick rescued a 1-1 draw for Crystal Palace on Wednesday.

Ten Hag's side led through Bruno Fernandes' first half strike at Selhurst Park as they looked to record their longest winning streak in 14 years.

But Olise halted United's run at nine successive victories in all competitions when he smashed a breathtaking set-piece past David de Gea in the final seconds of the match.

It was a major blow for United, which had hoped to climb to second place in the Premier League and put pressure on leader Arsenal ahead of its visit to the Emirates Stadium on Sunday.

"When you're winning with two minutes to go and Palace don't create anything except one from a corner and one from the free-kick, you don't expect to drop points," Ten Hag said.

"We have to invest more to get that second goal and then not be in that situation that a lucky moment costs you."

The result: Crystal Palace (Olise 90+1) drew with Manchester United 1 (Fernandes 44).

SNAPSHOTS

Amanjot lifts Indian women to 147/6

Amanjot Kaur's unbeaten 41 off 30 balls propped up India to 147 for six against South Africa in the first match of the Women's T20I tri-series in East London on Thursday.

Opener Yastika Bhatia (35) and Deepti Sharma (33) were the other batters who got a start. West Indies is the other team taking part in the tournament.

The scores: India 147/6 in 20 overs (Yastika Bhatia 35, Deepti Sharma 33, Amanjot Kaur 41 n.o., Nonkululeko Mlaba 2/15) vs South Africa.

Indian women continue winning streak

The Indian women's hockey team defeated South Africa 4-0 in its third match to take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the four-match series in Cape Town on Thursday.

India had earlier defeated South Africa 5-1 and 7-0.

The result: India 4 (Rani 2, Deep Grace Ekka 18, Vandana Katariya 20, Sangita Kumari 20) bt South Africa 0.

Indian mixed doubles pair loses in WTT

The Indian mixed doubles pair of G. Sathiyan and Manika Batra lost to Lim Jonghoon and Shin Yubin (Korea) 6-11, 11-9, 7-11, 8-11 in the semifinals of the World Table Tennis Contender in Doha on Thursday.

Other results (round-of-16):
Men's singles: Xiang Peng (Chn) bt Sharath Kamal (Ind) 11-2, 11-1, 11-4.

Women's singles: Manika Batra (Ind) bt Joo Cheonhui (Kor) 11-4, 11-9, 11-7.

OUT OF ACTION

Nadal sidelined for eight weeks with hip flexor injury

World No. 2 Rafael Nadal tweeted on Thursday he would be out for up to eight weeks after suffering a left hip flexor injury during his second-round exit from the Australian Open. Scans showed a moderate muscle tear which, however, would not require surgery. He wrote he would now rest and undergo physiotherapy.

ON ROAD TO RECOVERY

Marsh working to be fit in time for India One-Day International series

All-rounder Mitchell Marsh, who had issues with his ankle during Australia's failed T20 World Cup campaign last year and was later ruled out of the Big Bash League in December, has begun his recovery process after undergoing surgery. He hopes to be on the plane to India for the ODI series in March.

PREP TIME

Australia's Steve Smith signs for Sussex ahead of the Ashes

Australia Test star Steve Smith will prepare for this year's Ashes with a short stint at English county side Sussex, the club announced on Thursday. Smith will be available for County Championship matches against Worcester, Leicestershire and Glamorgan before the first Ashes Test starts at Edgbaston on June 16.

DIFFERENT TAKE

Not having practice games could hurt Australia in India, says Healy

Former Australia wicketkeeper Ian Healy does not agree with Usman Khawaja's opinion that practice matches are not required ahead of the Border-Gavaskar series beginning on Feb. 9. While someone like Khawaja might not require fine-tuning, there would be many who need to get used to sub-continent wickets, he said.

India puts it past Wales, but fails to book direct berth into the last eight

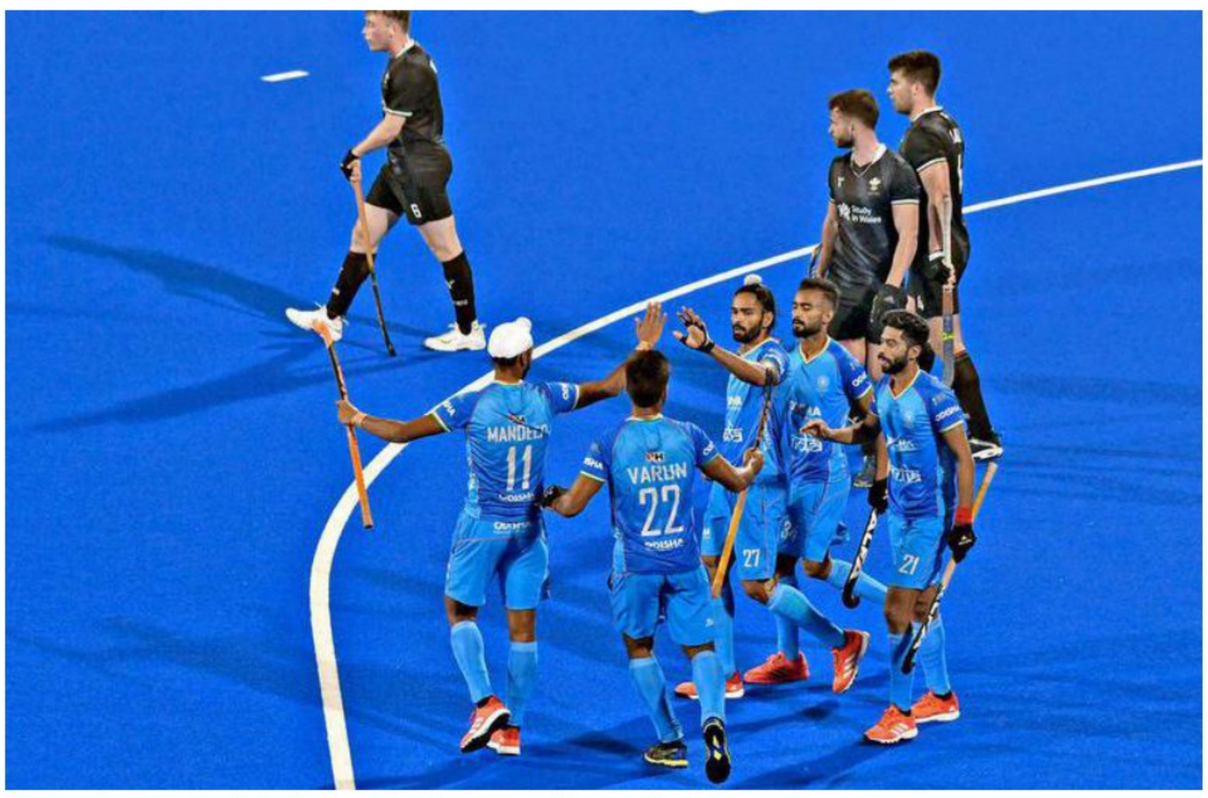
The host, unable to win with an eight-goal margin to make it straight to the quarterfinals, finishes second behind England in Pool D; to meet New Zealand in the crossover match; England advances to the last eight with a thumping victory over Spain

HOCKEY WORLD CUP

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

If domination equalled goals, India should have won by a dozen. It doesn't and India could only manage a less-than-satisfactory 4-2 win against a gritty Wales, finishing level on points with England but second in Pool D on Thursday on goal difference. Truth be told, England's top finish was only fair.

The result means India will now have to play the crossover match with New Zealand, the third-placed team in Pool C for a spot in the quarterfinals.



Hitman: Akashdeep, the third Indian from left, celebrates one of his two strikes with teammates. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Only itself to blame

And the host has only itself to blame. A day before, coach Graham Reid and captain Harmanpreet Singh had both insisted there would be no scoreboard pressure. On field, everything the Indian team did reeked of the monkey of the eight-goal margin (it needed for direct last-eight qualification) on its back.

India started well and only a couple of great saves by Welsh goalkeeper Toby Reynolds-Cotterill kept it from scoring. Thereafter, though, despite constantly being parked in the opposition half for long and having at least three forwards inside the Welsh circle at any time, the Indians appeared too much in a hurry, kept fumbling and found themselves without backups for rebounds.

In the normal course, the playbook would tell players to hurry on the counter, pass ahead on the go and then take time inside the circle to position themselves before shooting. The Indians did the opposite, dribbling with little purpose in the middle and allowing Wales to regroup before rushing into the circle and taking shots in a hurry.

It took Shamsher Singh controlling a PC rebound near the 23-yard circle and hitting into the far corner from just inside the circle to break the deadlock.

And Akashdeep Singh finally came into his own, scoring twice, both from near the top of the circle.

Akashdeep's goals came off moves that India needed consistently but rarely managed. The first was a 1-2 with Mandeep with the bare minimum of touches from the half-line; the second was a similar move with Sukhjeet.

Wales was far more organised in its plans and was rewarded with two PCs in three minutes towards the end of the third quarter – and converted both to make the score 2-2 in 45 minutes.

The biggest plus for India, though, would be Harmanpreet Singh finally opening his account 30 seconds from time. The result might flatter India; the performance less so.

Dominant

Earlier, England stamped its authority with 4-0 win against Spain with relentless attack and barely allowing the Spaniards to settle.

The entire team went up and down in numbers as Spain struggled to even enter the English circle.

The teams appeared equal for the first few minutes before England stepped up even as every goal struck sunk Indian hopes of topping the group a little more.

The results:
Pool D: England 4 (Roper 10-PC, Condon 21, Bandurak 50, Ansell 51) bt Spain 0.
India 4 (Shamsher 21-PC, Akashdeep 32 & 45, Harmanpreet 59-PC) bt Wales 2 (Furlong 42-PC, Draper 44-PC).

On a roll: Janssen pumped in four against Chile. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Netherlands downs Chile by record margin; Malaysia beats NZ

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

The Netherlands was expected to saunter to victory against Chile in its final Pool C match and duly obliged. The Dutch registered a 14-0 win against the South American debutants to finish on top of the pool and become the first team to qualify for the quarterfinals at the Hockey World Cup here on Thursday.

It was the biggest margin of defeat in the World Cup ever, bettering Australia's 12-0 hammering of South Africa in the 2010 edition, also hosted by India in New Delhi. The goalfest began in the seventh minute with Jip Janssen converting the first penalty corner of the match.

The Netherlands earned two more in the first quarter, but Chile defended well. In fact, the Chileans were at their best in the first 15 minutes, crowding their circle to thwart the Dutch. But that was all they could do as the Netherlands, apparently warmed up enough, got down to business.

Four goals in eight minutes, three PCs and 61% possession in the opposition half underlined the superiority at half-time.

It only got better for the Dutch – adding six goals in the third quarter and three in the fourth; Teun Beins putting Holland's 17th penalty corner into the roof for the new record in 49th minute.

In the other Pool C match, Malaysia upset New Zealand 3-2 and finish second in the pool.

The results:
Pool C: Malaysia 3 (Faizal Saari 2, Razie Rahim) bt New Zealand 2 (Hayden Phillips, Sam Lane).
The Netherlands 14 (Jip Janssen 4, Thierry Brinkmann 3, Koen Bijen 2, Thijs van Dam, Terrance Pieters, Teun Beins, Justen Blok, Derck de Vilder) bt Chile 0.

Australia has twin task of firming up defence and posting a big win

Y.B. Sarangi
ROURKELA

Following its great escape against Argentina, Australia will pay attention to its defence even while trying to record a big-margin win over South Africa and finish atop Pool-A in the Hockey World Cup at the Birsa Munda Stadium here on Friday.

With the teams moving in here for their remaining pool matches, Argentina, which is tied on four points with Australia but is second on goal difference, will look to overcome a strong challenge from a spirited France by maintaining its intensity.

The Kookaburras faced the heat against a well-structured Argentina before relying on Blake Govers' individual brilliance to manage a 3-3 draw.

Against South Africa, Australia – comprising other competent players like Eddie Ockenden, Tom Craig, Jake Whetton, Jeremy Hayward and Aran Zalewski – will go full steam ahead.

South Africa will be keen to give its best even though young midfielder Senzwesihle Nagubane, who injured his lower lip during a training session, is likely to miss the action.

Argentina will take heart from its sensational show against World No. 1 Australia and will try to check a young French side, which posted a fine 2-1 victory over South Africa.

Apart from stopping the dashing French attackers, the South Americans will have to guard against well-built drag-flicker and France captain Victor Charlet, who can unleash some power-packed flicks.

Advantage

While experienced hands Matias Rey and Agustin Mazzilli provide stability in defence and midfield, an efficient forward line, consisting of Maico Cassella, Lucas Toscani and Michael Ferreiro, give Argentina the advantage. "Our defence will be tight against France," said Argentina coach Mariano Ronconi.

Today's matches
Australia v South Africa, 1 p.m.
France v Argentina, 3 p.m.
Belgium v Japan, 5 p.m.
Korea v Germany, 7. p.m.

Stuff of dreams, says Shubman Gill

NZ IN INDIA

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

"It (the double century) means a lot to me, " said Shubman Gill, the India opener who cracked a brilliant, match-winning 208 against New Zealand in the first ODI here on Wednesday.

"This is what dreams are made of. It's amazing," Gill said about joining Ishan Kishan in the 200-club. "He's one of my best mates in the team and it's amazing to be able to spend time with him. I was there when he scored his double hundred and it felt amazing," he said at the post-match briefing here.

"I think in the first ODI against Sri Lanka and in the third ODI, I was set and looking to get a big score, but, unfortunately, that didn't happen," Gill said.

"Once I was set, the main focus was to be there for the team and score as many runs as possible. And, it feels good when it pays off.

"Not a conscious effort to keep batting aggressively, I would say. But, with an extra fielder inside the circle, we see other teams pushing in the middle overs," he said. "And, even today, when wickets were falling, my main focus was to show some intent to the bowler," he explained.

Gill. NAGARA GOPAL

"The idea was to avoid dot balls, show some intent and hit hard into the gaps," said Gill.

"Making my dad (my primary coach) and Yuvraj *paji*, who has been my mentor and worked a lot on my batting, feel proud. A a special feeling.

"I was not really thinking of a double century, but once I hit sixes in the 47th over, I did feel that I could get there," Gill said.

Murray wins another thriller; Djokovic advances while Ruud and Jabeur exit

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Veteran Andy Murray roared back in a five-set epic to reach the Australian Open third round with a remarkable victory over home hope Thanasi Kokkinakis early on Friday (4 a.m. local time). In front of a raucous but weary Margaret Court Arena, the Briton prevailed 4-6, 6-7(4), 7-6(5), 6-3, 7-5. At five hours and 45 minutes it was the longest match in Murray's storied career.

Earlier, Novak Djokovic scrapped his way into the third round to ramp up his bid for a 22nd Grand Slam crown, but several seeds crashed out.

Upsets galore

Men's second seed Casper Ruud, Taylor Fritz, Alexander Zverev and Diego Schwartzman were all sent packing.

Also bowing out were women's second seed Ons Jabeur, No. 9 Veronika Kudermetova, Anett Kontaveit and Liudmila Samsonova. Tunisian Jabeur was beaten 6-1, 5-7, 6-1 by Czech World No. 86 Marketa Vondrousova.

With the exit of hobbling defending champion Rafael Nadal on Wednesday, the top two seeds are both now gone and this presents a huge opportunity for Djokovic, who even before that was hot favourite to win a 10th Melbourne crown.

The 35-year-old Serb required a medical time-out and had heavy strapping on his left thigh against qualifier Enzo Couacaud and was also bothered by some fans.

But Djokovic recovered his poise and fitness to beat the Frenchman 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-0 to set up a meeting with Grigor Dimitrov.

Ruud was struggling against Jenson Brooksby and the Norwegian went down to the American, 6-3, 7-5, 6-7(4), 6-2.

Sheer delight: Brooksby cannot believe he has just ousted second seed Ruud. AP

Fallen seeds
Men: 2-Ruud, 8-Fritz, 12-Zverev, 14-Carreno Busta, 23-Schwartzman, 30-Fokina
Women: 2-Jabeur, 9-Kudermetova, 16-Kontaveit, 18-Samsonova, 27-Begu

Fellow seeds Andrey Rublev, Dan Evans, Holger Rune and Roberto Bautista Agut all won. Zverev, the 12th seed, suffered another setback on his return from injury as he lost to 107th-ranked Michael Mmoh.

THE RESULTS

Men: Second round: 5-Rublev bt Ruusuvuori (Fin) 6-2, 6-4, 6-7(2), 6-3; 25-Evans (GBR) bt Chardy (Fra) 6-4, 6-4, 6-1; 27-Dimitrov (Bul) bt Djere (Srb) 6-3, 6-2, 6-0; Popyrin (Aus) bt 8-Fritz (USA) 6-7(4), 7-6(2), 6-4, 6-7(6), 6-2; Wolf (USA) bt 23-Schwartzman (Arg) 6-1, 6-4, 6-4; Mmoh (USA) bt 12-Zverev (Ger) 6-7(1), 6-4, 6-3, 6-2; Paul (USA) bt 30-Fokina (Esp) 6-2, 2-6, 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-4; Brooksby (USA) bt 2-Ruud (Nor) 6-3, 7-5, 6-7(4), 6-2; 4-Djokovic (Srb) bt Couacaud (Fra) 6-1, 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-0; Murray (GBr) bt Kokkinakis (Aus) 4-6, 6-7(4), 7-6(5), 6-3, 7-5.
Women: Second round: 30-Pliskova (Cze) bt Putintseva (Kaz) 6-0, 7-5; 23-Zhang (Chn) bt Martic (Cro) 6-3, 6-3; Volynets (USA) bt 9-Kudermetova (Rus) 6-4, 2-6, 6-2; Linette (Pol) bt 16-Kontaveit (Est) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4; 19-Alexandrova (Rus) bt Townsend (USA) 1-6, 6-2, 6-3; Siegemund (Ger) bt 27-Begu (Rom) 5-7, 7-5, 6-3; 4-Garcia (Fra) bt Fernandez (Can) 7-6(5), 7-5; 5-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Rogers (USA) 6-3, 6-1; 26-Mertens (Bel) bt Davis (USA) 6-4, 6-3; Vondrousova (Cze) bt 2-Jabeur (Tun) 6-1, 5-7, 6-1.

INBRIEF

Inter Milan thumps AC Milan to clinch Italian Super Cup

Inter Milan won the Italian Super Cup in Riyadh on Wednesday with a thumping 3-0 victory over local rival AC Milan. Federico Dimarco and Edin Dzeko netted within the first 21 minutes to send Inter on its way before Lautaro Martinez added the third late in the second-half and secure a seventh Super Cup triumph.

The result (final): AC Milan 0 lost to Inter Milan 3 (Dimarco 10, Dzeko 21, Martinez 77).

Mohammedan Sporting puts it across Mumbai Kenkre FC

Mohammedan Sporting posted its first win on the road, a 3-0 verdict over Mumbai Kenkre FC in the Hero I-League in Mumbai on Thursday. Meanwhile on WednesdayNEROCA FC defeated TRAU FC 3-1 in Imphal.

The results: Mohd. Sporting 3 (Murzayev 34, Davis 50, Joseph 60) bt Mumbai Kenkre FC 0.
Wednesday: NEROCA FC 3 (Fletcher 38, 90+1, Kporvi 90+6) bt TRAU FC 1 (Tursunov 10).

Vaishali holds Adhiban, ends her three-loss sequence

R. Vaishali held B. Adhiban to a 36 move draw in the fifth round to end her three-loss sequence in the Challengers section of the Tata Steel chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee on Wednesday. On a day when the Masters section saw a day of rest, Turkey's Mustafa Yilmaz took the lead with four points.

The results (fifth round): Challengers: R. Vaishali (1) drew with B. Adhiban (2.5); Amin Tabatabaei (Iri, 2.5) lost to Mustafa Yilmaz (Tur, 4); Alexander Donchenko (3.5) drew with Luis Supi (Bra, 2.5); Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 2) drew with Velimir Ivic (Srb, 3.5); Javokhir Sindarov (Uzb, 3.5) bt Jergus Pechac (Slo, 0.5); Max Warmerdam (Ned, 2.5) drew with Abhimanyu Mishra (USA, 2); Thomas Beerdsen (Ned, 3) bt Eline Roebers (Ned, 2).

LIVE TELECAST

Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. & 1.30 p.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Hockey World Cup: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1, 3, 5 & 7 p.m.
I-League: Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Lochan stars for Karnataka

BENGALURU: Lochan Appanna (128) starred in Karnataka's victory over Haryana in their C.K. Nayudu Trophy (under-25) match at Gurugram.

The scores: Karnataka 237 in 84 overs (Lochan Appanna 128, Kishan Bedare 27, Manoj Bhandage 36, Lakshay Sangwan 3/59, Nikhil Kashyap 5/73) and 310 in 100.2 overs (Kishan Bedare 79, Manoj Bhandage 75, Kruthik Krishna 77 n.o., Lakshay Sangwan 5/88, Nikhil Kashyap 3/98) bt Haryana 273 in 95.2 overs (Sagar Dahiya 57, S.R. Singroha 55, Anuj Thakral 79, Nikhil Kashyap 32, Manoj Bhandage 4/51) and 150 in 47.5 overs (S.R. Singroha 54, Anuj Thakral 48, Vidyadhar Patil 4/22, Varun Rao 4/54).

Huge win for Karnataka women

Karnataka whipped Arunachal Pradesh by 270 runs in the BCCI Senior women's one-day trophy at Mumbai.

The scores: Karnataka 356/8 in 50 overs (Vrinda Dinesh 46, Aditi Rajesh 70, Shreyanka Patil 73, Sanjana Batni 41, Divya Gnanananda 34, Shubha Satheesh 39, S. Ligu 3/81) bt Arunachal Pradesh 86 in 33.2 overs.

Anvay Dravid at the helm

Anvay Dravid, the younger son of former India captain Rahul Dravid, will lead the Karnataka team in the (South Zone) P. Krishna Murthy Trophy under-14 inter-zonal tournament, which commences in Kerala on Monday.

The squad: Anvay Dravid (Capt.), Arya Gowda, Ayush Patil, S.P. Banesh, Bilal Mabasheer, Dhruv Krishan, Dhruv Santosh, Gaurav Venkatesh, Harshith Pai, H.N. Karthik, B. Rathan, A.A. Rohith, Saksham Agarwal, Samarth Kulkarni, J. Sukruth.
Coach: Kunal Kapoor

CIL FC gets the better of Postal FC

CIL FC defeated Postal FC 2-1 in the 'B' division football league here on Thursday.

The results: CIL FC 2 (R. Vignesh 18, Ameeruddin 47) bt Postal 1 (Dheeraj Srinivas 37); Bangalore City FC 1 (Bejoy Thomas 70) bt Vehicles FC 0.

HMT edges out Bombers HC

HMT took out Bombers HC 3-2 in the KSHA 'A' division hockey league here.

The result: HMT 3 (Parthan 21, 49, Adhul 32) bt Bombers HC 2 (Chaswin Uthappa 13, Mayur Bopaiah 19).

Inter-school golf tournament

The Canadian International School (CIS) will host an inter-school golf tournament on February 3, at Prestige Augusta Golf Village here. For entry details, call 95910 03005.

Indian challenge snuffed out in the second round

Lakshya goes down fighting against Rasmus; Saina loses meekly to Chen; Chirag-Satwiksairaj duo withdraws with injury while other two pairs surrender in straight games

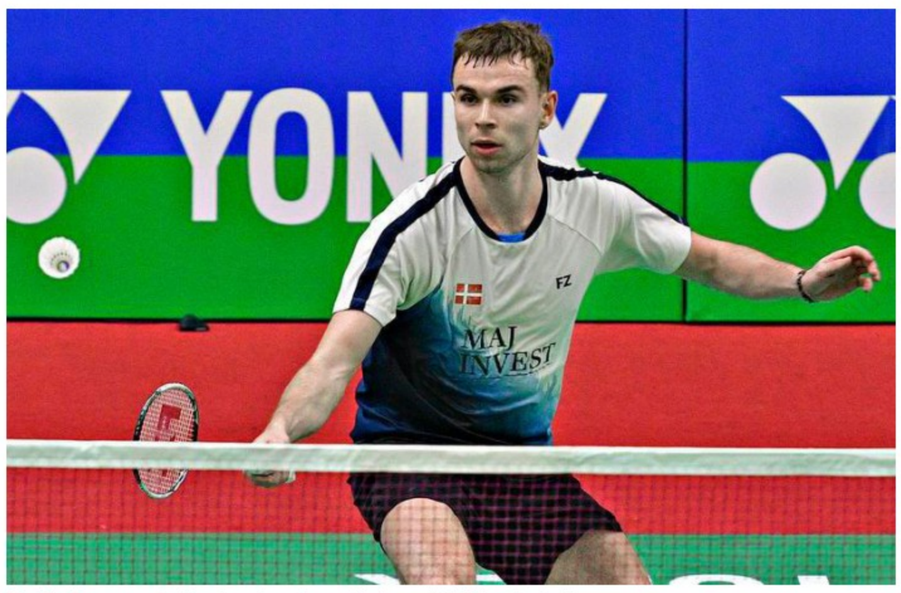
INDIA OPEN

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

At the end of the second round, the harsh reality of the current state of Indian badminton was in full view.

In a classy Indian Open field that showcased not only the creamy layer of world badminton but also those who are closing in on them, the home interest died young at the $900,000 mega event here.

On the eve of the quarterfinals, India's current torch-bearers – Lakshya Sen and the duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty exited in contrasting ways. Saina Nehwal's meek surrender confirmed the worst fear of those waiting to throng the Indira Gandhi Stadium to cheer at least one Indian over the weekend.



Tactical approach: Gemke played smartly to quell Lakshya's challenge. R.V. MOORTHY

Battling hard

Lakshya battled hard against Denmark's Rasmus Gemke but after 81 minutes found himself on his knees and head bent over his tired hands in despair after hitting the shuttle long to commit the last of his unforced errors.

Credit to Gemke for his 16-21, 21-18, 21-15 win during which he dealt smartly with a resurgent Lakshya and a vociferous crowd. The Dane bounced back from the loss of the first game to seize control of the second and never trailed in the third.

In the decider, Gemke saw off Lakshya's resurgence that began at 8-14 and brought him to 17-18. At this stage, Lakshya shot himself in the foot by serving long. He did win the next point with a forehand placement but thereafter Gemke gave nothing away.

A fortuitous net-chord contact brought Gemke match-point. It was over when Lakshya hit out when he had his rival at his mercy.

An injury to Satwik forced the Indian pair to withdraw against China's Liu Yu Chen-Ou Xuan Yi, a combination it beat last week in the Malaysia Open.

Later, a fast-fading Saina made a friendly appearance against Chen Yu Fei without challenging the Chinese for a 21-9, 21-12 beating. Saina tired-looking on-court movements indicated that she had not fully recovered from her three-game escape to victory in the opening round.

No doubt, Saina came to fight. But Chen did not let her. In fact, in 32 minutes, for every point that Saina won, Chen claimed two. After the early exchanges in the opening game, a variety of errors crept in the Indian's game. In short, the winner was not difficult to guess well before the final point was won and lost.

Earlier, it hardly came as a surprise as two other Indian pairs – G. Krishna Prasad and P. Vishnuvardhan Goud and Treesa Jolly and P. Gayatri – surrendered tamely to their Chinese rivals.

Leading second round results:
Men: Rasmus Gemke (Den) bt Lakshya Sen 21-16, 15-21, 18-21; Viktor Axelsen (Den) bt Shi Yu Qi (Chn) 21-16, 16-21, 21-9; 3-Loh Kean Yew (Sin) bt Hans-Kristian Vittinghus (Den) 21-18, 21-17.
Doubles: Liu Yu Chen & Ou Xuan Yi (Chn) w/o Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty; Liang Wei Keng & Wang Chang (Chn) bt G. Krishna Prasad & P. Vishnuvardhan Goud 21-14, 21-10.
Women: Chen Yu Fei (Chn) bt Saina Nehwal 21-9, 21-12; Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) b Han Yue (Chn) 21-14, 21-14.
Doubles: Zhang Shu Xian & Zheng Yu (Chn) bt Treesa Jolly & P. Gayatri 21-9, 21-16.

Mayank hits double century as Karnataka dominates Kerala

RANJI TROPHY

M.R. Praveen Chandran
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal mastered the pitch to tame the Kerala attack and compiled a double century (208) which put Karnataka in command at the end of the third day's play in the Ranji Trophy cricket match against Kerala at the KCA-St. Xavier's College Ground here on Thursday.

Karnataka took a 68-run first-innings lead after ending the penultimate day at 410 for six. With the odd ball turing and bouncing, Karnataka will fancy its chances of forcing a win on Friday. At stumps, wicket-keeper B.R. Sharath was batting on 47 and Shubhang Hedge was unbeaten on eight.

It was a long day for Kerala which failed to seize the chances and allowed Karnataka batters to dominate them. Shoun Roger at first slip failed to latch on to a sharp chance when Mayank Agarwal, on 168, edged Akshay Chandran, and later wicketkeeper P. Rahul missed a stumping of Sharath when the batter was on 18 off Vaisakh Chandran. Both batters made Kerala pay for the let-offs.

Calling the shots: Mayank changed gears to complete his double century with a flurry of boundaries. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the morning, Mayank and Nikin Jose used their feet to smother the spin and put away the bad deliveries for boundaries. Mayank took on Jalaj Saxena early in his spell, despatching the off-spinner over long on for a straight six and followed it with an on-driven four. Nikin Jose found his touch to complete his half-century.

However, Kerala stuck twice in quick succession before lunch as Akshay forced Nikin to edge a catch to Shoun at first slip and Jalaj got rid of Manish Pandey for a golden duck as the batter was caught in the leg-slip.

Mayank, after grafting for major part of the second session, suddenly changed gears and slammed Nidheesh for a six and two fours to move from 185 to 203 off just six balls. Vaisakh ended Mayank's stay as the batter edged him to short-leg.

There was noticeable drop in scoring rate after Mayank's dismissal as only 70 runs came in the post-tea session which also saw the dismissal of Shreyas Gopal, caught at short-leg for 48.

The scores:
Kerala — 1st innings: 342.
Karnataka — 1st innings: R. Samarth b Vaisakh 0, Mayank Agarwal c Vathsal b Vaisakh 208, Devdutt Padikkal b Nidheesh 29, S.J. Nikin Jose c Shoun b Akshay 54, Manish Pandey c Kunnummal b Jalaj 0, Shreyas Gopal c Vathsal b Jalaj 48, B.R. Sharath (batting) 47, Shubhang Hegde (batting) 8; Extras (nb-2, b-11, lb-3): 16; Total (for six wkts. in 137 overs): 410.
Fall of wickets: 1-0, 2-91, 3-242, 4-243, 5-336, 6-378.
Kerala bowling: Vaisakh 30-4-87-2, Nidheesh 27-5-76-1, Jalaj 35-2-124-2, Sijomon 27-3-77-0, Akshay 18-4-32-1.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES

Elite (Round six, day three):
Group A: Baroda 86 & 336/7 in 102 overs (Vishnu Solanki 79, Shashwat Rawat 89) vs. Uttarakhand 199.

Odisha 226 & 152/1 in 41 overs (Anurag Sarangi 52 batting, Subhranshu Senapati 91 batting) vs. Uttar Pradesh 362 in 100.3 overs (Dhruv Jurel 44, Priyam Garg 122, Rinku Singh 108, Suryakant Pradhan 4/76).

Himachal Pradesh 346 & 263/3 decl. in 46 overs (Raghav Dhawan 46, Prashant Chopra 115 n.o.) vs. Nagaland 233 in 79.5 overs (Rongsen Jonathan 96, Hokaito Zhimomi 41,Vinay Galetiya 6/62) & 31/4 in 17 overs.

Bengal 419 vs. Haryana 163 & 177/7 in 69 overs (Chaitanya Bishnoi 55, Yuvraj Singh 78).

Group B: Andhra 415 & 164/7 decl. in 45 overs (Karan Shinde 50 n.o.) vs. Saurashtra 237 in 63.2 overs (Sheldon Jackson 64, Arpit Vasavada 40, Samarth Vyas 51, Lalith Mohan 5/71) & 10/1 in 2 overs.

Tamil Nadu 540 vs. Assam 266 in 100.2 overs (Riyan Parag 48, Swarupam Purkayastha 74, S. Ajith Ram 4/68) & 66/0 in 34 overs.

Mumbai 293 & 168/9 in 59 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 51, Tanush Kotian 48 batting, Divij Mehra 5/29) vs. Delhi 369 in 101.1 overs (Hrithik Shokeen 45, Vaibhav Rawal 114, Himmat Singh 85, Tushar Deshpande 4/111).

Maharashtra 385 & 30/1 in 2.5 overs bt Hyderabad 192 in 86.3 overs (Rohit Rayudu 68, Rahul Radesh 55) & 219 in 53.1 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 43, Chandan Sahani 59). **Points: Maharashtra 6 (25), Hyderabad 0 (1).**

Group C: Services 175 & 139/2 in 40 overs (Shubham Rohilla 52, Ravi Chauhan 68 batting) vs. Goa 483/9 decl. in 155.2 overs (Manthan Khutkar 82, Eknath Kerkar 156 n.o., Darshan Misal 59, Mohit Redkar 56, Pulkit Narang 4/141).

Pondicherry 231 & 89/5 in 38 overs vs. Jharkhand 412 in 133.2 overs (Aryaman Sen 44, Kumar Suraj 45, Virat Singh 124, Saurabh Tiwary 116, Sagar Udeshi 8/118).

Kerala 342 vs. Karnataka 410/6 in 137 overs (Mayank Agarwal 208, Nikin Jose 54, Shreyas Gopal 48, B.R. Sharath 47 batting).

Rajasthan 360 & 268/3 decl. in 48 overs (Mahipal Lomror 130 n.o., Aditya Garhwal 73) vs. Chhattisgarh 199 in 77.3 overs (Ajay Mandal 48, Vashudev Bareth 42, Aniket Choudhary 4/25, Manav Suthar 4/46) & 111/4 in 32 overs (Anuj Tiwary 51).

Group D: Punjab 443 bt Madhya Pradesh 244 in 78.4 overs (Yash Dubey 50, Shubham Sharma 50, Harsh Gawli 53, Siddarth Kaul 4/55) & 77 in 27.5 overs (Arshdeep Singh 4/30). **Punjab 7 (26), MP 0 (32).**

Jammu & Kashmir 446/6 decl. in 156 overs (Abhinav Puri 121, Shubham Khajuria 53, Vivrant Sharma 55, Ian Dev Singh 61, Abdul Samad 58, Musaif Ajaz 43 n.o.) vs. Tripura 76/4 in 37 overs.

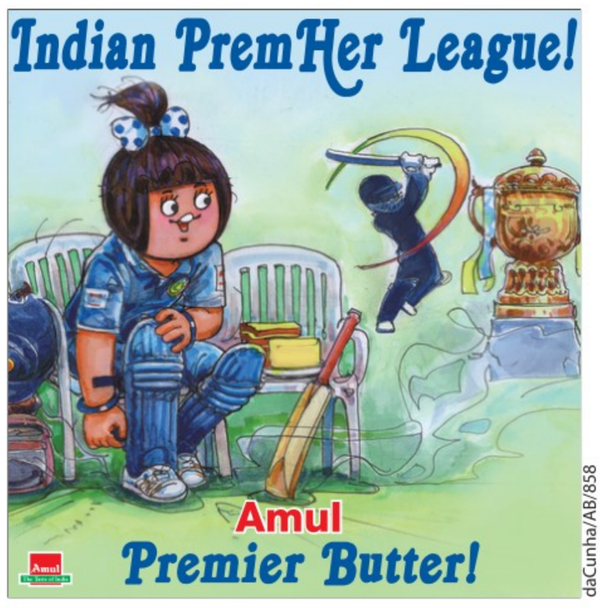
Railways 386 vs. Chandigarh 485/8 in 149 overs (Manan Vohra 126, Kunal Mahajan 83, Gaurav Puri 102 batting, Gurinder Singh 42, Shresth Nirmohi 52 batting).

Vidarbha 74 & 254 bt Gujarat 256 & 54 in 33.3 overs (Aditya Sarwate 6/17). **Vidarbha 6 (19), Gujarat 0 (14).**

Plate: Semifinals: Bihar 428 & 164 in 66.3 overs (Babul Kumar 51, Rajesh Bishnoi 6/30) vs. Meghalaya 134 & 23/1 in 11.5 overs.

Sikkim 229 & 273 in 83.5 overs (Sumit Singh 168, Pheiroijam Singh 5/62, Kishan Singha 4/77) vs. Manipur 166 & 108/2 in 41 overs (Bikash Singh 65).

Fifth place play-off: Arunachal Pradesh 199 & 259 in 61.3 overs (Anup Ahlawat 63, Rahul Dalal 107, Avinash Yadav 6/99) lost to Mizoram 485 in 123 overs (Taruwar Kohli 144, Joseph Lalthankhuma 73, Avinash Yadav 125, Sumit Lama 74, Akhilesh Sahani 5/91).



daCunha/AB/858

MRF F2000 headlines a 14-race card in Chennai this weekend

In the van: Sai Sanjay, No. 33, is the championship leader in the MRF F2000 category. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MOTORSPORTS

Arjun Balu of Race Concepts, winner of all three races so far, enjoys a comfortable 35-point advantage in the ITC category

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2022 enters its crucial phase when the third and penultimate round gets underway at the Madras International Circuit, here on Friday with the title contenders in all categories jostling for points and positions.

While the MRF Formula 2000 category continues to headline a card of 14 races, a fresh grid in the championship is the Volkswagen Polo Cup with a 15-car field.

Both these categories will have four races apiece over the weekend.

The Polo Cup field includes two drivers from Bangladesh – Avik Anwar, winner of the UAE Pro Car Championship, and Ishayat Hussain, in his second season in this category.

Salem's Sai Sanjay (93 points) and Chirag Ghorpade (82) from Bengaluru are the front-runners in the MRF F2000 category with two wins each in five starts.

Coimbatore veteran Arjun Balu (75) of Race Concepts, winner of all three races so far, enjoys a comfortable 35-point advantage in the ITC category.

Local racers Akkineni Anand Prasad of Performance Racing (55) and teammate Ritesh Rai (61) head the IJTC and Super Stock classes, respectively, but with challengers very much in their rearview mirrors.

Anirudh-Vijay combine in last four

INDIANS ABROAD

Sports Bureau

Anirudh Chandrasekar and Vijay Sundar Prashanth beat Jason Jung and Evan King 4-6, 7-6(5), [10-8] in the doubles quarterfinals of the $40,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Nonthaburi, Thailand, on Thursday.

Other results: €118,000 Challenger, Tenerife, Spain: Doubles (quarterfinals): Patrik Niklas-Salminen (Fin) & Bart Stevens (Ned) bt Fernando Romboli (Bra) & Arjun Kadhe 6-3, 6-1.

$25,000 ITF men, Doha: Pre-quarterfinals: Jaimee Floyd Angele (Fra) bt Mukund Sasikumar 6-2, 6-4; Aleksandre Bakshi (Geo) bt Prajnesh Gunneswaran 7-6(6), 6-2.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Khumoyun Sultanov (Uzb) & Parikshit Somani bt Mousa Shanan Zayed & Mubarak Shannan Zayid (Qat) 6-1, 6-4.

$15,000 ITF men, Jakarta: Pre-quarterfinals: Niki Poonacha bt Hong Kit Wong (Hkg) 6-4, 6-3; Sidharth Rawat bt Chen Hsun Lo (Tpe) 7-5, 1-6, 6-0.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Ishaque Eqbal & Karan Singh bt Ray Ho (Tpe) & Masamichi Imamura (Jpn) 3-6, 6-4, [10-5].